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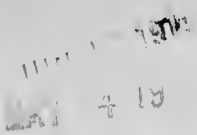

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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Two Wise Men and All the Rest Fools.

Date of only known quarto 1619

[*B.M. C 12. g. 6. (3.)*]

Reproduced in Facsimile 1913

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

Two Wise Men
and
All the Rest Fools.

1619

Issued for Subscribers by the Editor of

THE TUDOR FACSIMILE TEXTS,

MCMXIII

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A.278050

Two Wise Men
and
All the Rest Fools.

1619

This facsimile is from the Museum Copy: there is another in the Bodley.

Authorship is doubtful. The B.M. Catalogue says: "(By George Chapman)"; Greg says "Author unknown." On the other hand Mr. A. H. Bullen in "N.D.B." s.v. G. Chapman, says "Winstanley and Langbaine ascribe to Chapman 'Two Wise Men, &c. . . . censuring the follies of this age . . . ,' but Langbaine is careful to add: 'I am led only by tradition to believe this play to be his.'" Mr. Bullen then proceeds, "there is not the slightest ground for fathering this absurd production on Chapman. The error probably arose from a confusion of the title . . with the title of Chapman's comic masterpiece, 'All Fools.'"

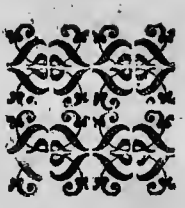
This facsimile is, on comparison with original, distinctly good. The original is in fair condition barring stains.

JOHN S. FARMER.

TWO VVISE MEN AND ALL THE REST FOOLES:

OR

A COMICALL MORALL, CENsuring the follies of this age, as it hath *beene diverse times acted.*



Anno. 1619.

Names of the Actors.

Proberio. Simplo. Noverindo.
Antonio. Securus. Hermito.
Ruſtico. Hortano. Acuto. Vulcano.
Sperato. Spurco. Gulato.
Inſatiato. Infælicto.
Lamia. Suſanna.
Malingua. Mureto. Granato.
Furioſo. Corraſo. Phantaſtico.
Purgato. Stercorato. Camerado.
Parvagracio. Levitia. Peſtifero.

PROLOGVS.

RIGHT noble and worthy Aſſembly: It hath beene a very auncient and laudable cuſtome, in the beſt gouerned common-wealthes, to admit and fauourably to allow interludes and diſcourſes vpon the Stage for diuers reaſons; but eſpecially two. The one, to entertaine the well conditioned people with ſome delightfull and fruitfull conceits, thereby as it were to deceiue idlenes of that time which it had allotted for worſe purpoſes. The other, for the iuſt reprehenſion of ſuch as with ſerious and more graue aduiſings cannot or will not be ſo freely admoniſhed and corrected. The later of theſe two reſpects hath begotten this Dialogue, ready to be acted, principally and ſpecially pointing that Impe which is infortunately foſtered vp to this day, to ruine it ſelfe with Infamy. Onely this comfort is afforded, that if he be preſent, and withall ſilent, he may ſuppoſe that of all others it concernes not him. If hee be abſent (as moſt likely he is) then euery other that findes himſelfe parcell guilt may ſee the deformity, and forbeare the exceſſe. Other touches and paſſages are, which our Author and wee preſent not with minde to offend any, but to pleaſe the well diſpoſed. And ſo in the name of all the reſt I entreate courteous audience, and pardon of all faults.

TWO

TVVO VVISE MEN AND ALL THE REST FOOLES.

ACT I. SCENA I.

Enter Proberio *alone.*

HOw much wee that haue beene trauailers differ from other kindes of people? So ſoone as we arriue, we are attended to the *Burſe* or *Randevon* of Merchants. There we walke as if the whole world hath neede to be informed, yea and directed by vs in matters of greateſt moment; ſuch as is trafficke and commerce with forraine nations, and the ſtate and diſpoſition of thoſe kingdomes through which we haue paſſed. For it may be we can giue intelligence of preparations and invaſions. We can demonſtrate their ſtrength and munition. We can number their Captaines and Generals. We can diſcouer their deſignes and confederates. And finally; we can lay plots to croſſe and make voide all their purpoſes, and ſtratagems, which theſe home-bred and countrie-ſpunne people can neuer attaine vnto. Therefore by good right we are had in eſteeme, and ſpeciall requeſt, and courteouſly receiued of Councellors of ſtate whereſoeuer we come. Neither doe we tye our ſelues to any one dominion more then an other, but indifferently to all ſtates we deliuer freely the condition of euery nation. And the place we fall into is our beſt beloued ſo long as there we tarry, and

not a minute longer. We oblige our ſelues to no Prince for gold nor gaine, nor be penſioners to any Monarche: but with deſire to ſee more we paſſe through all gouernements, vnchecked and vncontrolled, becauſe we take part with none, offend none, nor are falſe to any. And this life wee loue aboue all liues, not content with any life, but that which ſeekes an other life.

Enter Simplo *and* Nouerindo.

Mounſieur Proberio, you are welcome home.

Pro. That's more then you know *Segnieur Simplo*, what countrey ſhalbe my home?

Simp. Then you are welcome into England.

Pro. Thankes gentle *Simplo*.

Simp. What newes? And what company came ouer with you?

Pro. Newes I haue none but ordinary to tell you. With the ſtate I ſhall haue ſome buſineſſe. And in my company came ouer an old acquaintance of yours, one *Segnieur Antonio*, a man of extraordinary action and faction.

Simp. If it be the man I coniecture him to be, his name is plaine *Anthony*, an Engliſh man, borne ſome 70 miles from London Northweſt, and hath beene beyond ſeas ſome leuen or twelue yeeres.

Pro. That's the man. But wee call him *Segnieur Antonio*, by reaſon of his trauailes in Italy and other places.

Simp. As he hath chang'd his name and countrey, hath he not altered his conditions? I aſſure you he was very honeſt, and of good expectation before he went.

Pro. No, vpon my word. Hee came ouer a great deale better then he went, and well qualified: and there was no doubt but he would continue ſo ſtill, but that couetouſnes, and the diuel's on't.

Simp. What? is he giuen to that? it were great pity.

Pro. Well, this Sir *Antonio*, or *Anthony* whether you will, hath ſeene many countries, and learned many ſtrange qualities.

Simp. Strange qualities! bee they as good as they bee ſtrange?

Pro. Nay,

Pro. Nay, doe you judge? Ile tell you ſome of them. And if you like them, wee'll put them in print, and ſet them vp to be ſold at the Hoſpitall porch, neere S. *Nicholas* ſhambles, and annexed to the great thing in *magna charta*, or *magno folio*, entituled, an *Admonition to houſeholders.*

Simp. Well, if they deſerue ſo, it ſhalbe ſo; and I'le beſtow the coſt in printing, and deale with a friend for their allowance *ſub priuilegio.*

Pro. But firſt I'le account to thee what accidents wee had in trauaile.

Simp. But I'le heare nothing till I heare them.

Pro. No? what if I ſhould firſt reade a Sermon preached within theſe ſeuen dayes at *Amſterdam* by a man of moſt pure profeſſion and inuention not ordinary, paſſing all that liued before or behind him in the nouell ſtraine; himſelfe of the right cut of *Carolſtadius*: in which Sermon hee prooues moſt deuoutly, that it is Idolatry to fight againſt the Turke. Wouldſt thou not heare that firſt?

Simp. No. What tell'ſt thou me of Sermons? let's haue theſe qualities without any more digreſſions.

Pro. Well, ſince you are ſo deſirous, you ſhall haue them by whole ſale, retaile them at leyſure when you come home.

Imprimis, when he liueth in a great towne like London, he loues to lye in a corner ouer the Kitchin, becauſe the Iack ſhall not whirle too often, to waken or diſtract him in prayer. His dinners are for the moſt part ordinary, except foure dayes in the weeke he viſite his houſe-keeping friends. And at ſupper a couple of egges, and a bit of cheeſe is a choyce dyet after a liberall dinner: beſides it ſaues fire and waſhing of diſhes.

Simp. But if I were his man, if he kept no better cheere at his chamber, I would make the cheeſe frye vntill the butter were ſpent.

Pro. But your cunning would fayle you, for hee hath a tricke beyond your reach for preſeruing his cheeſe. But to the next.

Secondly, hee ſo cauils and wrangles with any man that he

he deales withall, that they neuer agree or loue after, and yet euery Saterday he makes eauen with all the world.

Simp. Thou tell'ſt mee a wonder. How ſhall I beleeue this?

Pro. It is ſo: chuſe whether thou wilt beleeue me, or no.

Simp. Let me ſee how theſe can be reconciled.

Pro. Canſt thou not reconcile them? I ſee thou art a very barren fellow; thou haſt not a ſpoonfull of wit. I am ſorry that euer I vndertooke to teach thee theſe incomparable tricks of *Don Antonio*, laboured for ſo toughly in climing the *Alpes*, and ſo dangerouſly brought downe. Thou look'ſt too neere hand, as if a man would ſpye for a Woodcocke in the next queath of buſhes; wheras thou ought'ſt to eleuate thy aſpects to thy vttermoſt kenning, as thoſe doe that lye on their backes to keepe ſight of hawkes which aſpire beyond the firſt region. Search me the furtheſt corner of thy capacity, and there ſee if perhaps doe lye as in an abſtruſe angle, ſome ſecret patterne of theſe proiects. Euery *Buzzard* will prye if a mowle or a mouſe ſhall happen in an houres watching to creepe from a buſhe right vnder her ſtand: giue mee the Eagle ſoaring conceits, to ſpye what ſprings before the furtheſt ranger a mile off.

Simp. I know not how to diue into this bottomles ſecret. It is ſure ſome riddle. I pre thee ſuſpend me no longer: for if I ſhould beate my braines with an Iron peſtle, not a ſprinkle of them will light vpon the outſide of this enigmaticall propoſition. Nay, good now tell me, how he that palters with euery body, ſhould be eauen at weekes end.

Pro. Well, I will not ſticke with thee for this once, but looke not for it often; for I'le not vſe you to it. Finde them out by your owne ſtudy for me heereafter. You are of age one would thinke. Thus it is: hearken well what I ſay at firſt. for Ile not repeate it againe for loſing of time. *He is eauen with all the world euery Saterday.* Thoſe were my words, and I'le make them good; marke diligently.

Simp. Nay, pre thee diſpatch, or els I cannot marke as I was wont to doe. The marke will bee out of my mouth if

you

you come not quickly out with it.

Pro. Well, euery Saterday night he makes eauen with all the world, becauſe hee wilbe the better diſpoſed againſt Sonday. Hem Ha.

Simp. Alas! not yet, I am not able to endure it, I faint.

Pro. He is euen that is to ſay. Ha. Ha. Hæ.

Simp. O my heart: not yet. A penieworth of *Aquauitæ*, if I ſhall liue.

Pro. Hold, hold: thou ſhalt haue it preſently: tis at my tongues end.

Simp. Well, ſay on. If my ſences faile not, Ile heare you.

Pro. *He loues no body then, and no body loues him.* And thus thou ſeeſt there's no odds, but all eauen.

Simp. What a jeſt is this? there's an eauen reckoning with the diuels name. You ſhall be hang'd before Ile torment my ſelfe with deſire to heare any more of your knauiſh tricks. Ile beſworne I had like to mar'd all. It wrought with me like a purgation. It has giuen mee a treble ſtoole at once, though I find no fault. I haue it hot, and worſe then any perfuming pan in the world. You ſcuruy fellow, an 'twere no for looſing land I haue (*he layes his hand vpon his ſword*) not maruaile though a man muſt be ſicke at heart (I ſweare) and ſtudy ſo hard, and ſtraine my wits to reach the reaſon of this riddle. I am ſure I did ouerſhoot it 40. yards, and had like to put a dozen caſes, how theſe two caſes might well enough haue ſtood together in one ſubiect *ſalua conſcientia*, taken out of *Scotus*, and *Thomas Aquinas*, fully reſolu'd by them; but ſtill I doubted I ſhould fall ſhort: therefore I thought better to conceale them: and now doeſt thou gull me thus groſſely?

Pro. Ha. Ha. Hæ. An thou be a good fellow rehearſe three or foure of theſe caſes thou hadſt like to haue produced; and let's iudge how fitly they had beene applyed if neede had beene.

Simp. To what end? for thee to mocke mee more? you may command: but if I were willing, thou haſt now put them quite out of my minde, I know not where to beginne.

Pro. I thinke ſo. Thou wert pockily diſtempered.

Simp. Wil't pleaſe you to proceede? let's heare ſome more of your goodly ſquires conditions.

Pro. Thirdly. When he meanes to ride to his counttey-houſe, he goes three daies before to ſome groomes at court. And if from them he leatne any newes (if it be but of a poſy given the king of Fraunce by his nurſe, or that a fiſher man ſayling by the *Barmoothes* ſaw a fire at finging of a hog) this carries him ſcot-free to all the gentlemens houſes of his acquaintance ſcituate, ſet, lying, & being within ſeaven miles of the high way of any ſide vntill at length he ſet foot at his owne ſtable dore *pecunijs numeratis* remaining entire in his right pocket. And the like he can doe retrogrado to London, but by variety of friends becauſe the ſame newes may be newes forward and backward.

Simp. This is a very plaine tricke, and needes no ſuch *encomions*, and *Epithets* of commendation as you beſtow on it.

Pro. Is it ſo Sir? ther's your iudgement, and bolt ſoone ſhot. But if I ſhew that it is a very difficill, ambiguous, perilous, perplexed and involved *ſtratagem*, what will become of your opinion hereafter?

Simp. Who? here's a buſines about riding a few miles by many gentlemens houſes, as though it requires ſuch ingenious circumſtances.

Pro, I, that it does Sir. And I vndertake to make it appeare though perhaps you haue nere a capcaſe to put it in.

Firſt *Segnior Anthony* ſo ſoone as he puts foot in the ſtirrop, is to feare leaſt the Maſter & Miſtres ſhould not be at home & his perplexity in that caſe is very hardly diſſolved.

Secondly how to carry his tales and diſcourſes methodically.

Thirdly to take heede he diſcover no familiarity with the gentlemans adverſary.

Laſtly what kinde of farewell he were beſt to take at parting. Theſe be matters of mighty moment (as thou ſeeſt) which he hath to caſt, and recaſt; to meditate, and ponder; to toſſe, and tumble; to revolue, and reſolue; to put forwarde

with

with *pro*, and pull backe with *contra*, to obiect, and confute; to throw doubts and miſhaps like ſnow-bals, and againſt them erect bulwarks & defences, to admir wounds & ſcars, and to apply ſalues; to conclude, come what come will to haue cordials in ſtore, & all little enough to ſaue his beſt beloved in his purſe. And yet thou *Dunſtable* breed thoughtſt it as eaſie a matter to performe them handſomely as to make a good poſſet with a quart of new milke and a quantity of cleere chamberly.

Simp. Sir I confeſſe all theſe be farre aboue my element: and that in many yeares ſtudy I cannot comprehend one of them, therefore I leaue thē to your *cavaglyer* without *Peere* in mine opinion. Hath he any more qualities of this nature? Lers haue them, for at leaſt I ſhall learne ſome wit out of them.

Pro. Thou learne wit out of them? never while thou liveſt: not honeſty neither. They will rather rob thee of thoſe wits thou haſt, he hath infinite ſuch as theſe, which in verie pitty to thee I forbeare to relate at this time. Theſe are enough to conceiue at once. For if I ſhould driue them all into thy braines togither, though it were with a tenne-penny-naile, thou couldſt not carry them away: but rather they would make thee madde in the caſe thou art now.

Simp. Why? what caſe am I in thinkſt thou?

Pro. Not fit I was to receiue ſuch potions without due preparation.

Simp. What ſhall I doe to be made fit for their operatiō? Ile take any courſe thou wilt preſcribe me to get perfection. And I can imitate like an *Ape*.

Pro. Thou makſt a large offer, & a raſh, which full ſoone (I doubt) thou wilt revoke: but ile try thee. Before thou begin to profeſſe this art, thou muſt forget all rules and inſtructions of manners taught thee by thy fathers, godfathers, or ſchoolemaſters, and renounce all good counſaile given thee from the beginning of the world to this day: that ſo being an empty and voide veſſell thou maiſt be the more apt to receiue the tincture and impreſſion applyed. And thus begin

thy A B.C. in *matchevillaines* ſchoole. Otherwiſe; if thou ſhouldſt reſerue but ſo much as a ſecret intention to keepe thine old honeſty on the one ſide of thy head, and lay open the tother ſide to entertaine theſe reſtleſſe and ſtill ſtirring cratchets, there would be ſuch hurly burly in thy brain, that all the wit thou haſt will not keepe them in order. Therfore, if thou deſireſt to be of the cunning crue, and withall lov'ſt thine own peace, come cleere without wit or honeſty, weele teach enough in a weeke to ſerue thee all thy life time. Ile bring thee acquainted, and then ile turne him looſe to teach and furniſh thee with deſtructions enough for a whole country.

Simp. Deſtructions. What ſhould I doe with them except it were to deſtroy others. But I doubt I ſhall pay deare for my ſchooling, and that I like not. But for the other point of parting with my former good leſſons, faith, I can quickly doe that for I never gain'd any thing by them, therefore I can be content to come to him as naked as ever I was born.

Pro. That's a great ſtep to your well profiting I may ſay to you: and tis a great ſigne of grace to bee obedient, and wholly to reſigne your ſelfe to good inſpirations: but canſt thou tell when thou haſt good counſell giuen thee?

Simp. Not I; no more then a child: For now you hau made me put off all my old learning I am become a very innocent, as if I were this day taken from my mammee: but I truſt you becauſe you are my frend. I hope youle put me to none, but ſuch as ſhall teach me enough for my mony. And you ſay he is wiſe and will giue me ſamples enough, & then I warrant you Ile take um like a ſpunge till I be twice ſo big as I am.

Pro. Well, then thus farre we are agreed. And I wiſh you not to ſtand vpon his getting by you, leaſt you be penny-wiſe, and pound fooliſh.

Simp. How learn'd you his cunning ſo perfectly? haue you knowne him long.

Pro. O, I? why I haue knowne him theſe 30 yeares at leaſt, and convers'd with him in his beſt times; ſomewhat at

coſt

coſt me you muſt thinke, but that's paſt: I would not for any thing but that I did knowe him throughly.

Simp. Has he beene in Italy then as you ſaid before?

Pro. I that he has, and caried from thence more th. n all the townes in Italy could ſpare.

Simp. what's that?

Prob. I will not tell thee, thou haſt a lready more then thou canſt well beare: thou art almoſt drunke with the very ſmell of his wit, or elſe thou wouldſt never ſo idly aske me a queſtion which I told thee twentie times.

Nover. *Mounſieur Proberio*, I haue heard all the conference betweene you and *Simplo*: and I doe ſo much miſlike your diſcourſe that I cannot chuſe but oppoſe my ſelfe in my frends behalfe whom I heare egregiouſly to be wrong'd by you *Proberio*.

Pro. In what *Noverio*, do, haue I done him injury?

Nov. In all your ſpeech generally: and in many particulars.

Pro. O vniverſall *Noverindo* in what particulers?

Nov. Tis no matter. Ile tell him all when we meet next.

Pro. That's no matter, but canſt thou diſproue me in any thing I ſaid? or doſt thou knowe any good by him that I haue not ſpoken of?

Nov. Faith, or elſe I knowe but little: for if you praiſe a frend on this faſhion I prethee ſpeake the worſt thou canſt by me.

Pro. Sir, it may be Ile pleaſure you ſo much: but to the matter; canſt thou diſproue me in any thing I ſaid?

Nov. Yes, that I can, & that I will. I can diſproue thee In that thou ſaidſt hee never deales with any man but hee cavills, and wrangles with him, which is vntrue. And I had much adoe to keepe in my mother tongue, but could haue found in my heart preſently to haue put the lye downe thy throat, but I did bridle my nature to heare all thou wouldſt ſpeake. And now to demonſtrat thy falſhood, I ſay, and will iuſtifie that he is as good a to ith too man either to giue or take as any is in London: and that he keeps his daies (eſpe-

cially of receit) as ſtrictly to an howre as any man. And further, that hee cavelleth or wrangleth not with any in this kind: therefore you are a lying fellow.

Prob. Not to forward with your lyes *Noverindo* if you loue your ſelfe: for though I will not fight for feare of the proclamation, yet knowe I can make you giue me ſatisfaction vpon your knee if I would complaine. but I will ſeek no ſuch advantage; for the cauſe it ſelfe giues mee victory enough over thee, and returnes the lie moſt bravely into thy gullet. I can proue *Nody Noverindo*, that in thy owne trade and his of *decem per cent.* when he loſt 100l which the ſcriuener deliuered his owne meſſenger after the bond ſealed, (who ran away with the mony) he brake his day, and ſued the ſcriuener ſtriuing to recouer the whole, or ſome compoſition by that meanes.

Nov. But did he recover any? or did the ſcriuener giue him any thing? ooo?

Pro. He recouer'd not; nor got any thing from the ſcriuener. But was not this a wrangle, and a ſhamefull cavill? yea and with a *Noverint* man himſelfe which thou denieſt? ooo now thou lyeſt in thy ſwallowing place *Noverindo*.

Nov. Segnieur Simplo, Helpe me a little. Canſt thou ſay no good of this gentleman? it frets me to the heart to heare a man of our owne making to be thus miſus'd.

Simp. Faith not I, not much, ſauing that I haue heard many yeares agoe that he was a reaſonable honeſt man but for's religion, and they ſay ſtil hees a kinde of a Papiſt.

Nov. What a raſcall ſtis? doe I call thee to ſpeake in his behalfe, and doſt thou prate of religion? what has he or I to doe with religion? I dare ſweare that hees an honeſt man of no religion. (*Intrat Antonio*) and yonders the man, let's ſee now who dares charge him with religion. I hope he and I haue worke enough and neuer buſie our ſelues about religion. So many banckrupts, and houſekeepers now adaies tis time to looke about vs.

Pro. What? doſt thou finde fault with houſekeepers: youle pleaſe him never a whit with that, for ant were not for

good

good houſekeepers he would haue many hungry meales.

Nov. I finde fault with ſuch houſekeepers as dare not ſhew their faces without their owne doores. I cannot indure this. Ile complaine to him on you both, if euer hee light on you within the laſh of the law, ther's no mercy: and tis no matter, teach you to ſpeake ſo evill of him behind his backe.

Pro. Why cockscombe; how canſt thou tell his backe was towards vs.

Nov. Well, mocke on, twas in his abſence, thats all one: Ile tell him if youle giue me nothing.

Pro. Giue thee, yes a rope (*Noverindo turnes toward Antonio*) theſe caterpillers are al for what will you giue me like *Indas*.

Enter *Nov.* and *Anton.* at ſeverall doores *Noverrindo* ſpeakes.

Nov. Bonus dies, Segnieur Antonio, Magnifico; the worthieſt gentleman that ever conſorted with the bankers of this citie. Sir I hope you make no doubt *nos teneri & firmiter obligari tibi aut tuo certo attornato, &c.* And further *obligamus nos, & quemlibet noſtrum, heredes, & executores noſtros &c.* The condition is to bee ever ready at yout loweſt ſervice.

Pro. What a rogue ſtis? he can ſpeake nothing but obligations as *Ovid* did verſes.

Ant. Gramarcees gentle *Noverindo*: how goe the rates now?

Nov. Sir you may haue as much as you will at eight in the hundred, others pay ten.

Ant. I thanke you: then I haue a match already: a friend of mine muſt vſe a thouſand pound and intreats my band; Ile ſay he ſhall haue it by my meanes. Thou ſhalt haue forty ſhillings in the hundred for brocage: and I will gaine other fortie ſhillings, this is but twelue in the hundred that's dog cheape, I knowe ſome pay a great deale more: And Ile haue good land twice the worth for my counter ſecurity. Let me alone to hamper them.

Nov. You are the wiſer ſir, faſt bind faſt find. And if they

faile

faile yeull trice them I trow vpon the mortgage.

Ant. Ah ha, art avis'd of that? surely I shall doe them good to make the fooles take heed of others. And what fate is in me, a bargaine is a bargaine: and if I giue them a little more for their land when it is forfeited, they may thanke me but no parting with the land, for it is so deep if a man would dig it that it reacheth to hell, and ther's no redemption.

Nov. Well, this is agreed: and if you will haue 3000l speake but the word, and giue three daies warning, weele come at your whistle as your wife was wont to doe: but theres a thing I must impart to you which (I hope) you will take well at my hands, being but the relator.

Ant. What? is any Backrupt that hath my summes put forth?

Nov. Not one, they are as safe as in your chest.

Ant. Let it be what it will then, *I* care not a rush.

Nov. Sir it is some discredit to you if it be true.

Ant. *If* it be true, and discredit *I* weigh it not.

Nou. Ah noble *Antony* (*he imbraceth him*) pardon me if I be bold with your worship, for no man could haue spoken more pithely, and more like our owne corporate brother then this was: why Sir for all the world so are wee, never mou'd say what men will: wee could not liue richly if men had cause to speake well of vs, giue me your hand, Ile liue & die with you for that word; and loe here with this hand of mine I reach you the hearts of all our company; now I dare say any thing to you without feare, or blushing. That which I was so vnwillidg to vtter was no more but this: it is very credibly reported that you never deale, or contract with any but you cavill, wrangle, paulter, wrench, shift, chapp, change, deny, refuse, goe backe from your word, breake off, and play all manner of fowle play; whereupon all men speak evill of you, and as many as had once commerce will never more meddle with you.

Ant All this is nothing, I haue heard twentie times so much with my owne eares, and smile at the poore fellowes that they spend their time with talking of me. But didst thou

ever

euer heare but I gain'd by them all.

Nov. Nay, that's certaine: they all agree on that as a verdict.

Anto. Why, there's it then. Now thou ſeeſt where wit lodgeth, with me, or with them.

Nov. Faith 'tis true. And they haue nothing to charge a man withall but *Conſcience* and *Religion*, and ſuch impertinent ſtuffe. But I thinke I haue taken downe ſome of them about the word *Religion* of the oldeſt ſtampe, that you ſhould be tainted withall, and I trow I haue ſo ſilenc'd them that you ſhall not neede to trouble your ſelfe with ſtudying to revenge it.

Anto. I, they talke their pleaſure behinde my backe, but I wiſh they would ſpeake one word to ground an action vpon. Didſt thou heare him (whoſoeuer he was) ſay, I am a Papiſt?

Nov. O, no Sir, I warrant you, they dare not for ſortie pound ſay ſo. But that you were one, that you looke like one, that your heart is ſo ſtill, if you durſt for loſing ſome of your goods, that you were honeſter when you ſtucke to it. That now you diſſemble. And ſuch like words full of ſuſpition, but not to beare an action. They are crafty enough for that. But I trow Sir, you are too wiſe, and ſo I anſwered for you.

Anto. Thou didſt well. I know ſome of them would gladly catch me in a trip. But Ile watch them well enough.

Exeunt omnes.

Act. I. Scena II.

Enter Securus *and* Hermito *at ſeverall doores.*

Sir *Hermito.* No man better met heere then your ſelfe. I was in great care for an *Aſſociat* in the affaire with this day, and almoſt euery day I vndertake.

Her. Sir, my ſociety will afford you ſmall contentment,

if my daily taskes required not my attendance, where by perpetual vow I haue engaged all my houres vntil my death. For I am fit for no other imployment but my beades. Neuertheleſſe if it pleaſe you briefly to let me know your deſire, I will by my anſwere giue you reaſonable ſatisfaction.

Secu. When I doe ſeriouſly conſider the worlds preſent condition: And that we which converſe abroad with all ſorts of people are ſubject to ſo many miſtakings, cenſures, and vntrue reports, that it paſſeth the skill of any man to cary himſelfe vprightly, & without blame, I begin to iudge you, and your like onely happy, who chuſing to leaue the world, haue procured quietneſſe to your life. But Sir *Hermito*, I marvaile what hath remoued you from your caue to the countrie. Are you as weary of private liuing, as I am of too much company? The newes muſt needes be great, and ſtrange which brings you hither.

Her. No ſuch matter, as that my intended courſe of dwelling with my ſelfe ſequeſtred from all reſort, ſhould haue an end ſo long as my abode in this world endureth. Farre be it from my thought euer to wiſh the change of my eſtate. As now I am I trouble not others, nor any man offendeth me. And where no miſlike is, who can thinke of alteration? my reſolution hath bred my contentment: the peace which I enjoy, counter-valueth all maner of wants. And my ſpiritual exerciſes take away tediouſnes. The cauſe of my comming hither (Sir *Securus*) is a Proclamation lately ſet forth by the King, that all his Subiects being men of 21 yeares, & vpwards, living within 50 miles of the Court, ſhall appeare there within 14 dayes after notice given them. And about three dayes paſt, a pilgrim paſſing by my cell, told me of this Edict, and that it was vpon alleageance. So I being his ſubject (thogh ſeruing him to no other purpoſe, but praying for him) thought it my dutie to make my appearance, and to depart without delay.

Secu. Sir, I am right glad to haue intercepted you (whether you be travailing to or fro the Court) becauſe this day

is

is appointed for hearing and determining many controuerſies, and cenſuring ſundrie ſorts of people: And ſome of theſe differences beyond my learning. You therefore come very fitly to aide me. And this whole affaire being principally for peace-making, and ending debates without ſuite of Law, you may not refuſe to ioyne with me in a worke of ſo great charitie.

Her. In very deed Sir, euery one ought to yeeld his beſt helpe to ſuch workes. And although I haue alreadie recorded my appearance at Court, and licenced to returne to my poore home, and would willingly ſpend ſome houres with you to ſo good a purpoſe; yet (*Alas Sir*) I am like to preuaile very little with any body, wanting both acquaintance and authoritie among them whoſoeuer they be: therefore I entreate my fruitleſſe preſence may bee ſpared; but I will not be wanting to you with my prayers for your ſucceſſe.

Secu. Sir, for your authoritie and acquaintance it ſhall not skill. All that I haue both thoſe wayes, ſhalbe conferred vpon you equally with my ſelfe. If they deſpiſe you, they ſhall contemne mee alſo. Onely I entreate your companie this day, and then I ceaſe troubling you further whatſoeuer neede require hereafter.

Her. Sir I expect no intreatie, neither will I wrong you ſo much as to make further requeſt to my poore ſelfe. I ſtay willingly and am at your ſeruice in all things.

Secu. No ſeruant of mine Sir, but my friend vpon equall tearmes.

They both ſit downe in chaires ſome diſtance each from other.

Act. II. Scena. I.

Enter Ruſtico, Hortano, Acuto, *and* Vulcano.

Neighbour *Hortano*, I haue conſidered of the great coile we had the laſt Sabouth after euening praier in the veſtrie about

bout putting downe the *Holy-dayes*. It hinders our buſineſſe much. And mee thinkes this praying in a Church among thoſe of high degree is nothing pleaſantable, and bluſhing takes away my devotion. I can pray a great deale better, and with a more comelie grace when I whiſtle at plow. And me thinkes 'twere a goodly matter if euery man in's calling might follow his focation, and there doe ſuch devotion as his ſtomacke ſtands to.

Hor. Faith, neighbour *Ruſtico*, I am euen of your mind. For I'le bide by it, I ha more weeds growes in one Holyday, then in three workie dayes.

Ruſt. O, you are a Gardner, it becomes you wel to agree with the Husband-man, if we two hold together, we ſhalbe too hard for twentie fooles.

Hor. Indeed 'twer a gay thing if wee could put downe theſe *Holy-dayes*, as you ſay. Me thinks 'twer an eaſie matter as well as we ha put downe the Faſting-dayes *pell mell, hand over head.* An wee wood hang together 'twer ſoone done, but when ſome are ſo arſeward 'twill neuer be.

Acu. You talke you know not what. There were no reaſon in it: for that were the way to breake all order, and giue our mindes altogether to toyle, and neuer ſerue *God*. For you would not ſtay there neither if you had your will, but the Sondayes ſhould ſhortly goe downe for company. You will leaue nothing ſtanding.

Ruſt. O, you are a Tayler, you ſpeake for your profit. For an 'twere not for *Holy-dayes*, which require fine cloathes, and much change, you might begge your bread.

Vul. You hit the naile on the head neighbour *Ruſtico*. Weele put them downe an you'll keepe ſtroke with me.

Acu. Nay *Sirra*, if any man hit the naile on the head, it ſhould be you, becauſe you are a Smith; but ſoft, you are ſo hot with your rip rapping, that you miſſe the nayle and Anvyle alſo. For my part although I doe boldly worke on Holy-dayes as other taylers vſe Chriſtmaſſe day and all, yee would

would I not miſſe the Holy-dayes for any good, nor would I breake the order without neceſſity. But is it ſo eaſie a matter to put downe the Holy-dayes thinke you? And will you doe it with the furious fire-forke? And you Maſter Gardner that will rake vp Holy-dayes and Faſting-dayes like weedes, and bury them all in a trench, you are both both fowly deceiued. For neither haue you put downe the Faſting-dayes, becauſe ſtill they are bidden in Churches, nor is the caſe alike: for Faſting is private, and cannot ſo well be puniſhed, but if you come not to Church, vp you go for a *Recuſant* an you were my father.

Ruſt. Why for all that ſhud we be troubled with ſo many holydaies? wood not fewer ſerue the turne as well? I doe not thinke our auncetrums were ſo peſtred.

Acu. Ye, sand with many more; and kept the eues halfe holy.

Ruſt. How didne a then for doing their buſineſſe? ſure a were all beggers. And yet twood anger me that my graundſir ſhould be a begger. I it wood.

Acu. Not ſo neither. They liued very well: and had not the twentith begger that we haue: and were great houſekeepers every man almoſt. They built all the Townes, Colledges, and Religious houſes.

Ruſt. Didne a ſo indeed? I cha hard my grandſir, & grannam tauke much of thoſe things. Sure but I thinke they went to plow and cart on the workydaies, and built thoſe things you tauke on vpon the holydaies, or elſe it cood never be.

Acu. No, no. They ſuffered no kind of lighter workes to be done on thoſe daies, much leſſe ſuch painefull labours as they were.

Ruſt. Why were the Saints daies kept holy at all? Tell me ſome reaſon for it.

Acu. They did in thoſe daies giue great honour to ſuch as ſuffered death for Chriſtian religion, although the men were as poore as Chriſts fiſhermen. And therefore the daies of their martyrdome they kept holy, and came to Church to

glorifie and praiſe that God, for whom thoſe Saints died, there were people exhorted to doe the like.

Ruſt. But I miſlike the very ground, and cauſe of thoſe holydaies which (you ſay) is ſuffring death willingly. Doe not we die faſt enough (thinke you) againſt our wils, but we muſt ſet vp a trade of dying with a good will?

Acu. Thou ſpeakeſt againſt reaſon. For if thou muſt needs dye, firſt, or laſt, wert not better to die for a glorious cauſe, ſo to be ſure of heauen, & willingly in perfect memory, then againſt thy will wreſtling with death, & ouercome in the end with great paine, and perhaps paſt thy ſences.

Ruſt. Reaſon me no reaſons. I ſpeake as I thinke, I proteſt from my heart I had rather doe any worke in the world then dye. What? never come home againe to my wife, and my pretie barnes? Why, I haue a boy, his name is *Iacke*; hee has a face as welfavor'd as any great turnippe root, with a cracke in the mid'ſt, which is the very proportion of his mouth. I will not willingly leaue that boy for all the deaths in the world. No I will not. But if I muſt needs dye whether I will or no, I wood haue death take mee aſleepe, that I may not ſee his face, for if I did I would run away as hard as ever I could for my life.

Hor. Mr *Acuto* talke with me, hee ſpeakes like a foole. I haue more wit then twentie ſuch loggerheads.

Ruſt. Nay, then I haue more wit then thou canſt get: for I can make my horſes turne vp the ground, and thou muſt doe it with thy hands and feet, elſe thou canſt earne no mony. Come neighbour *Vulcane*, we two wiſe men will leaue theſe two to play the fooles here vntill our turne come againe. *Exeunt Ruſt. & Vul.*

Hor. Now *Acuto*, let vs two conclude what ſhall become of theſe holydaies, and as we agree, I warrant it ſhall goe. And thou haſt almoſt perſwaded me to let them ſtand. But let vs goe and read a booke I haue at home of the liues of Saints to furniſh vs with ſtronger reaſons againſt our next encounter with theſe Dunces, and then wee will end this controverſie. *Exeunt.*

Secu.

Scen. How thinke you by this S. *Hermito*? would you haue imagined that ſuch plaine fellowes as theſe be, ſhould call a buſineſſe of this nature in queſtion? By this you may may geſſe what ſtirring heads we haue to deale withall, and how eaſie a matter to keepe them in order.

Her. It is ſomewhat ſtrange. And the more vnlearned the men are, the harder to be ſatisfied. But the hope is, that as mad men doe beſt ſervice when ſome of their like are moſt vnruly, ſo theſe men being alike vnskilfull will ſoone confound each other, and ſo giue over the buſineſſe.

ACT. II. SCEN. II.

Enter Antonio *at one dore* Proberio *and* Simplo *at another.*

It is not vnknowne to mee that very many doe cenſure my deeds as wicked and not beſeeming a Chriſtian. But this is the iniquitie of the time, becauſe they doe not diſtinguiſh between perſons and ſeaſons. For my actions being not ordinary, are not to be iudged by ordinary, but refined wits. For now your downe right dealing is exploded, as too ſubiect to every meane capacitie.

Pro. Yonder is thy maſter that ſhalbe (*Simplo*) thou ſhalt loſe no time, weele to him ſodainely. *Segnieur Antonio.* All haile to your perſon. Here is a man deſires to ſerue you; to be your pupill; to imitate your actions ſo neere as his veſſell can hold the print. And he will doe well. For hee is made all of wax, very pliant, emptie of all things, but a little mony and a tenement or two of land lying next your freehold on the ſouth ſide, worth 10l *per annum.*

Ant. He is welcome. Haue you giuen him any principles, ſuch as you know are neceſſarie? and is he docible?

Pro. He is ready for your hand Sir. I will not commit ſuch an errour (knowing you as I doe) but lay the foundation. You may worke vpon him as you liſt I warrant you.

Simp. Sir I hope you ſhall finde me diligent, and according to your heart.

Ant.

Ant. Thou haſt a good ſterne countenance, I like thee well: if thy minde be as vntoward it will be ſutable.

Simp. I warrant you Sir, no man ſhall get any thing of me, but I will knowe how he comes by it, except your ſelfe, whom I will truſt withall I haue. Deale with mee as you pleaſe.

Ant. I thanke you. Nay, if I deale not well with you, I wiſh no man ſhould deale ill with me. I heare you haue land lying neere me, I would haue you bee a good husband, and keepe it. Let me lay vp your writings ſafe leaſt ſome deceaue you of them.

Simp. That you ſhall Sir, here they be. They ſhall be in pawne to you for my good behaviour: for I thinke no man will giue his word for me.

Ant. Thou art the fitteſt man for mee that ever I met withall: nor any man (I thinke) will vndertake I ſhall bee a good maſter to thee.

Simp. Tis no matter ſir, I will ſtand to your gentleneſſe.

Ant. Well ſaid: and Ile even deale with thee thereafter.

Exeunt Ant. *and* Simp.

Pro. Thou haſt a ſeruice a dog would not haue it, except his taile were already ſo ſhort cut to his breech that no more could be ſpared. I warrant thou haſt ſeene the laſt of thy writings. They will pull thy land after them. And that's but law. *Tranſit terra cum onere.* *Exit.* Pro.

Enter Hortano *and* Acuto.

Is it true that you told me (*Acuto*) at our laſt parle here that there were ſuch valiant people in times paſt that willingly and cheerefully went to their death when they might haue inioyed life longer.

Acu. There is no queſtion of it except wee ſhould diſcredit all Hiſtoriographers, who make honorable mention of them in all ages before vs. And in our owne time and memory there haue beene many ſuch men.

Hort. I proteſt it is a wonderfull courage theſe people haue, and in mine opinion farre beyond the ſtoutnes of ſouldiers. For they goe to kill and contend, not meaning to die,

dye, which only they ſtrive againſt, and avoid by all meanes they can. and provide aboue all things to bee well arm'd for ſafetie of life. But the martyr with not reſiſting, conquers death, and feares not that which is feared and ſhunned of all others. Therefore I thinke them worthie of great honour and perpetuall memorie. But who are they (ſay you) that giue teſtimonie of them? me thoght it was a very fine word.

Acu. They be Hiſtoriographers.

Hor. O Hiſtornoggerſers. a braue word. Ile make a knot of theſe letters.

Acu. No, Hiſtoriographers man.

Hor. Now I haue it Hiſtriagerſers.

Acu. Not ſo neither: you muſt marke wel, & pronoũce it iuſt as I doe.

Hor. That I will be ſure to doe.

Acu. Thus then. Hi ſto-ri.

Hor. Stay there. Now gape (he gapes & *Hortano* looks in his mouth) lets tell; how many teeth ha you? 22. hough, whoos within there? a paire of pincers.

Acu. What to doe?

Hor. Why to pull two teeth out a your mouth for I ha but iuſt 20.

Acu. And what of that?

Hor. Mary becauſe youle ha me ſay it iuſt as you doe, & that I cannot except you & I haue the like number of teeth. I, and Ile meaſure your tongue, that if it bee longer then mine it may be cut even: for it is my dutie being a gardner, to doe all by line and levell.

Acu. That's no matter: ſo that you vtter the ſillables full as I doe.

Hor. Yes I make no queſtion, though I lack a few teeth but I can ſwallow a ſullebub as full as you.

Acu. A ſullebub. I did not ſpeake of a ſullebub.

Hor. No? that you did. Ile be iudg'd by all this companie.

Acu. No ſuch matter. I ſayd you muſt obſerue every ſyllable.

Hor. Go too then. I wooll: vp with it once againe.

Acu. Canſt thou tell what a ſillable is?

Hor. No, not I more then my dog.

Acu. How wilt thou obſerue them then if thou knowe not a ſillable?

Hor. Let me alone for that: Ile make a ſhift. Doe you ſay the word, and if there be ere a one there, Ile finde him I warrant you.

Acu. Ere a one there man? why the word is fram'd of many ſillables.

Hor. Very well: how ſhood I miſſe them then? turne me looſſe Ile take it as ſoone as it peeps out of thy mouth as parats doe bread and butter.

Acu. Come then marke well, Hiſ-to-ri-o-gra phers.

Hor. Ile lay ten pound to nothing, Ile not miſſe a ſtraws breadth, Hiſ-to-ri-o-gra-fers.

Acu. That's right indeed.

Hor. Law, did not I tell you ſo? Nay you never had an apter ſcholler in your life then I am: twool doe you good to teach me.

Acu. I am glad of it: this was ſoone learnt indeed: now put together, and ſpeake it ſhort as I did.

Hor. I will: but you need not doubt that it's ſafe, & will never be loſt. But to ſatisfie you Ile doe it, and that quickly, Hiſtor-cockafurrs.

Acu. Whoo: the longer the worſe.

Hor. This is your faut: that wood ha me ſay it ſo faſt: & tis a very ſcurvie word to hit, except a man haue a mouth made thereafter.

Acu. I thinke you are faſting to day, and that hinders your ſpeech: goe play and fill your bellie: and weele at it againe ſoone.

Hor. Thanks gentle Maſter: and the next time you teach me, weele doe it very cloſely ant pleaſe you. For I doe not meane to be very laviſh of my learning, when it ſhall bee at the biggeſt in no companie but yours.

Acu. So doe all cunning folkes: be daintie of your skill,

or

or elſe you ſhall never bee intreated at firſt, nor thank'd at laſt.

Act. II. Scen. III.

Enter Vulcano *and* Ruſtico.

Hortano: you haue beene a great while prating with that pricking fellow and make no reckning of my neighbour *Ruſtico* and me. Belike you thinke to ingroſſe the honour of the wholle buſineſſe to your ſelues. But I tell you plainely, if you haue termind to put the Holidaies downe you ſhall not coſen vs ſo: for it ſhall be wel knowne that I helpt to knock vm downe as much as any man in the pariſh: and that I gaue the hotteſt ſtroke about it.

Hor. Sir you are much miſtaken. The Tailer is an honeſt man, and a true man, (although it be impoſſible) and we are fully agreed they ſhall ſtand, & be kept as holy as they were the laſt yeare.

Vul. Are you ſo Sir? you are but a trecherous fellow for your labour, and a coward too: for I warrant thou hadſt rather be at a good dinner then a battle: were not wee two worthie to be of the councell? Well; Ile bee even with thee for this tricke. Ile ſweare, Ile not ſay a prayer this twelue-month vpon any holidaie that ſhall doe any liuing creature good.

Hor. What a villaine is this? then thou wilt not pray for thy ſelfe?

Vul. No, goodman woodcocke? as though I were a liuing creature.

Hor. Yes; a man would thinke ſo; art thou not?

Vul. No that I am not. And Ile proue it by an argumen, and a ſluttegim too. I tell thee, I can chop Logicke an I liſt. I can proue thee an Aſſe, or any ſuch horne beaſt with a trice I learnt it at Sturbridge faire, the while I was ſelling hobnailes: there was ſuch argenication among the ſchollers there, whether my nag which I gelt the yeare before were

now a horſe or no. It ſet vm all on ſuch a froth with ſpouting one againſt the tother, that ſome of the ſlauer lighted on my face, and yet I had my nag betweene them and mee for feare they would fight, and pull me vnder their feet. But an they had fought I never meant to part vm. To be ſhort: with gaping vpon them, I ſwallowed ſo much Logicke as will ſerue me the longeſt day of my life. And now Ile practiſe vpon thee to proue my ſelfe no liuing creature.

Hor. What a gooſe art thou? Is it poſſible thou canſt ſpeake, and yet be no liuing creature? proue this and proue any thing.

Vul. I will proue this; and I will proue any thing by Logicke: what a maime it is for a man to bee ignorant of the vertue and power of Logicke. I pitie thee, and all ſuch as be vnlearned like thy ſelfe. Why man: I will proue by Logicke *that he which was the laſt yeare and yet liues, is not.*

Hor. That were ſtrange. How? He that was the laſt yeare and yet liues, is not. I cannot deviſe how this ſhould be: for if he liue, how can he chuſe but haue a being?

Vul. Now it ſhall appeare how ſhort you are with want of Logicke. But Ile teach thee a little. *Hee that was the laſt yeare (yea and the laſt weeke) an honeſt man, and yet liues, is not now an honeſt man.*

Hor. This may be. For I haue heard an old ſaying (and I thinke it bee true) that a man may as ſoone depart with his honeſtie, as with any thing he hath.

Vul. So then. Doſt not thou thinke now, that I am as well able to proue my ſelfe no liuing creature?

Hor. I promiſe you I am in ſome doubt of it now: go on.

Vul. *Every liuing creature loues ſome other creature. But I loue no other creature.* Ergo *I am no liuing creature.* Now *Hortano* take all the hearbs of thy garden & ſtil their water to powder, thou canſt never waſh out the ſtrength of this *argomen.* I make it iuſt as they did theirs at *Cambridge* aboue my nag. I remember the words, and ſhall doe as long as my nag liues. For one of them ſpouted thus. *Every horſe hath ſtones:*

ſtones: but this beaſt hath no ſtones; Et go *he is no horſe*. And I clapt him on the backe and told him that hee ſpake truth. For I gelt him the laſt yeate, and eat his ſtones to my breakfaſt. But I had like to haue mar'd all by ſaying ſo. For there was a nimble-headed Scholler that ſtood by, (and yet had nothing to doe with the queſtion) went about to proue me a horſe, and thus he began. *Euery liuing beaſt, or Animal, that hath in him horſe ſtones, is a horſe. But this Animal,* (meaning me) *hath horſe ſtones in him, Ergo he is a horſe.* I was ſtriken in ſuch a maze (knowing that I did eate the horſe ſtones) that I was like to ſinke where I ſtood, and euen preſently to congeale into a horſe. But there was by chance an honeſt Scholler by, who ſaw my colour quite gone, took pity on me, and bade me be of good cheere, I ſhood not be a horſe. And told the tother to his face, that there was a *flaw* in his *argumen*. And then fetcht him about with a *Recumbentibus*, and prou'd that the horſe ſtones which I had eaten, were conſum'd, and became ſuch ſtuffe as I cannot tel you without Sir *reuerence* of your teeth; and that they did not grow in me as they doe in horſes: *Ergo* the caſe was alter'd. Then vpon this point of growing, and not growing, there was ſuch a ſturre, that all the horſe-courſers in the Faire came about vs. One ſaid they did grow, another denyed it, and ſuch part taking on both ſides, that in the end I was content (being deſirous to make them friends) to bee ſearch't in the open market, and ſo was cleer'd before them all to haue no more ſtones then I ſhood haue. And glad was I that I was not a horſe. Had not I (thinke you good cauſe to remember *Logicke*? Yes, I ſhall neuer forget it if I ſhould liue 100 yeates.

Hor. Goe to then: if you bee ſuch a ſcholler I will not diſpute with you about the *Holy dayes*, but my neighbour *Acuto* hath beene a ſcholler as well as you, and hee is able to ſhew you many reaſons why they ought to continue. And he hath fully converted me.

Val. I will not be judg'd by *Acuto*, nor by a better man

then he. Why, I tell you my neighbour *Ruſtico* and I, thinke our ſelues as good men as *Acuto* and you, and we are two to two. Weele neuer yeeld while the Plow and chaines hold, and that wilbe a good long time; for as faſt as they weare, I can mend them.

Acu. Will you referre it then to iudgement of indifferent men? we are all neighbours, let vs not fall out about things that none of vs haue skill in.

Ruſt. Yes, weele be iudg'd, but not by any braue people, for they will all take part with the Tayler that makes their parell gawdie, and with the Gardner that makes them pleaſant waukes and knots.

Acu. Weele giue you the choice, ſo that you name none of your owne trade, and an indifferent man.

Ruſt. You ſay honeſtlie. Nay truelie we are deſirous to haue an end of it, ſo that none of vs be his owne carver. Here ſits a countrie Gentleman, a plaine man, a good houſe-keeper, and peace-maker among all his neighbours: he is no Iuſtice of peace, ſo there is no feare to ſpeake our minde before him, nor neede we any *minerator* to him, he is very courteous.

Acu. Weele not refuſe him, nor any that is honeſt.

Ruſt. God ſaue you Sir. Heere is a great controuerſie betweene foure neighbours, two againſt two. Reaſons are alleaged on both ſides, and neither part will agree to other. In the end we accorded to referre the matter to you, we beſeech you to conſider, and order it as you pleaſe, and then ſo ſhall it be.

Secu. The controuerſie is beyond my skill, it being matter of *diuinity*; but mine opinion is, they ought ſtill to bee kept. For I perſwade my ſelfe, that our Auncetours (which did all things well) had ſpeciall reaſons for theſe daies to be kept holy. What their reaſons were, I take not vpon me to ſet downe: there ſits a Religious man, he is more like to quenche your thirſt, and reſolue your doubts then I am.

Vul. Moſt Reuerend Sir, though we be ſtrangers to you,

we

we are bold to aske your counſell in a buſines of weight.

Her. You are welcome whoſoeuer you are: no marvaile though you be ſtrangers to me, who haue eſtranged my ſelf from all the world: but what counſell can you expect from me, who am not like to giue worldly men any ſatisfaction, ſince I haue alreadie given the world with all his buſines an vtter farewell.

Acu. Sir, our buſines is not worldly, though it concerne worldlie men, euen as your life is not worldlike, though bodilie you liue on earth.

Vul. Nay M. *Acute*, ſtand aſide, or Ile haue you taken away, for you marre the play, you are very forward to take the tale out of my mouth, as if you had more wit, but I think not ſo. I began firſt to ſpeake vnto this man, therefore I wil haue the laſt word. Sir, our buſines with you ſhalbe ſhort, for I am a hot fellow, and I ſtrike thick and ſhort. This Tailer takes long and wide ſtitches, and drawes out the time to make his worke ſeeme much. Our difference is for the *Holy dayes* as they ſtand in the Kalender, whether it were fitter they ſhould be retourn'd into working-daies as they were at the firſt, or remaine to the worlds end. If you iudge they ought to ſtand, we are content, and will worke harder at other times. If you will haue them downe, doe but ſay the word, & hold vp your finger, weele maule vai to the ground at a blow.

Her. Your queſtiō is not hard to decide, & fit enough for me to deliuer mine opinion in. It is true, they were all working daies at the firſt. For which purpoſe it is ſaid, ſuch work as thou doeſt, worke it in thoſe ſix daies, and not on the ſeauenth day. Yet *God* did neuer forbid any of thoſe ſix daies to be kept holy. And the Chriſtian Church hath appointed many daies to be kept holy in memory of Saints which ſuffered diuerſe torments for Chriſts ſake, who ſuffered all for them, and for them all. And thoſe to be kept to the worlds end, that their facts and fame might neuer die, but encourage others to treade their bloudie but *Heauenly* ſteppes.

There-

Therefore ſince the Church of *God* and cuſtome of Chriſtian countries haue ſo ordered it, let no mans priuate raſhnes preſume ſuch alteration , as to make away or put out the *Holy-dayes*, but with due reuerence to obſerue them.

Vul. *Gods* bleſſing on you Sir, you haue quite *confiſcated my conceite*. Ile kill him that would haue them downe. Such a ſermon every day would make me keepe all the reſt of the weeke holy. Gow neighbour *Ruſtico*, you and I will hang together, and change together. Ile neuer meddle with any matter out of the length and bredth of my Anvile, fall back, fall edge while I breathe. Me thinkes I am good enough with this little teaching, I ſhall neuer need to mend heereafter. I could finde in my heart to goe to hanging preſently, and be a martyr, if I might haue no time to thinke of the paine, but goe aliue to *Heauen*.

They all make obeyſance to the Hermit, and turne aſide.

Acu. I told you ſo much before , you neuer needed to haue troubled the good man.

Vul. Thou told me ſo? what care I for thy telling? If thou told me my father were dead (though I knew hee be buried) I will not beleeue thee. And yet I would not for forme pound he were aliue againe. This is a graue man, and his verie countenance ſpeakes truth. Tauke no more ont, I am quite diſſolv'd they ſhall ſtand faſt: and Ile keepe them verie deuoutlie. And Ile perſwade all the Pariſh to doe the like.

Acu. Thou teach all the Pariſh. Wilt thou turne preacher?

Vul. No preacher Sir, but I hope all the Pariſh comes to my ſhop for one thing or other. And cannot I then giue vm part of my *talent* as well as the *Coblers* are wont to doe, and I am ſure it will become me as handſomelie as them.

Exeunt Vul. Acut. Ruſt. Hort.

Acr:

Act. II. Scen. IV.

Enter Antonio, Simplo.

Goe *Simplo* to Miſtris *Sylveſter* in *Sheerelane*, deſire her to lend me a paire of ſheetes, a pillowbeere, halfe a dozen of napkins, and a towell.

Simp. I will Sir, (*he ſteps forward, and ſuddenly ſtoppes*) but now I remember me *Proberio* told me you haue linnen enough of your owne.

Anto. He was the more foole to tell you ſo; but you muſt not vſe to croſſe me thus. Doe as you are bidden. Will not our owne laſt the longer if wee weare of other folkes ſometimes? when we haue gone through all our friends ſo often that none will lend vs, then 'tis time enough to weare our owne.

Simp. I vnderſtand the conceit now. Ile tell her you loſt your key.

Anto. Beſt of all. Doe ſo. I perceiue thou need'ſt no broker.

Simp. No Sir, no; ſuch a tuitor as you will ſerue turne well enough.

Exit Simplo.

Enter Proberio.

Anto. Friend Proberio. You come in good time. I was beholding to you in my greateſt neceſſitie: And I purpoſe to requite all your deſerts. At this preſent an accident is fallen, which will be beneficiall to you with a litle diligence had. A meſſenger of mine received a hundreth pound by my direction from a ſcrivener in this towne, and ran away with it into Ireland, finde him out, and get the hundreth pound, I giue it you.

Prob. I thanke you Sir, but it is a thouſand to one I ſhall neuer finde him; and if I doe, I know not the man, and the money perhaps ſpent.

Anto. If this faile Ile giue you another as beneficiall as it.

Pro. That's eaſily done. For I thinke this is litle worth.

Anto. I haue an employment for you, one Sir *Retlaw*, & Maſter *Eloc*, his father-in-law are bound with me in divers bonds, I for them, and they for me. The whole ſumme is a thouſand pound, the greater part they are to pay. I haue their counter-bonds for all. What they haue for my debt I know not. I would haue you be perfect in the accompts as they ſtand in my booke, and then demand of them a reckoning betweene vs.

Pro. Well Sir, this ſhalbe done with effect.

Exit Prob.

Enter Simplo.

Sir I haue brought the linnen, ſhe lent it willingly. So I ſaued the lie; ſhe deſires you to ſuppe with her to night.

Anto. *Ha*, ſuppe there? with all my heart. But how ſhal I doe with my two egges at home? they will bee too ſtale, remember ſoone to carrie them to the *Ale-houſe*, but meaſure them well in your hand with griping.

Simp. I will Sir. I would deſire your counſell in a matter concernes my ſelfe. One *Frith*, a neighbour of yours deſires to buy my land, whereof you haue the writings, and will giue me more then 'tis worth. What will you adviſe me to doe?

Anto. I thinke it not amiſſe to take his monie, and put it out to vſe, and therein I can pleaſure you. My ſcrivener ſhall doe it as for me, and he will get good men for your monie.

Simp. I thanke you Sir: then I will abſolutely bargaine with him, and ſend him to you for the writings.

Anto. Doe ſo: but bee not long: for I haue buſines inſtantly for you.

Exit Simplo.

What an Aſſe is this? doth he thinke I will let any man buy a thing ſo neere my noſe, but I will lay hold of it with my teeth? I will haue his land doe what he can. And I will

haue

haue it one 40l the cheaper for this tricke, that he will offer to ſell it from me. He thinkes belike to make a porter of me to cary his writings from Lawyer to Lawyer; but if I be, I wilbe well payd for my paines. I haue a device in my head, which I will extend to the vttermoſt, ſeeing he puts me to it. Truſt? there's a truſt with all my heart to ſerue other mens turnes. No, I never lou'd that. I remember to haue learn'd that charitie begins with it ſelfe. And a Cooke licks his owne fingers before he diſhes the meate for others. Doe they not know what it is to get writings out of my hands? It ſeemes they neuer entred bond to me. If they had, they would not preſume thus. If nothing els would ſerue to hold them, yet this I can alleage, that they are my ſecuritie for his good behaviour (although I care not ſixe pence for any ſecuritie, becauſe I neuer meane to truſt him for a crownes worth of any thing. And I haue all you to witnes, that for his good behaviour he pawn'd them to me.

Enter Frith.

I am glad to meete you heere Sir, your man and I haue bargain'd for his land not farre from me, but very neere you.

Anto. Welcome neighbour *Frith*. Let me ſpeake with you aſide. Take heed what you doe. His title is naught, els I would haue had it my ſelfe, and you know it lies fit for me. But let him not know I ſaid ſo.

Frith. I were much to blame if I ſhould Sir: no, I warrant you. I thanke you for this *caveat*. I might ſoone haue loſt my money ſo.

Enter Simplo.

Anto. Stay awhile, you ſhall heare more to his face. Come hither *Simplo*. This honeſt man tels me, he is in ſpeech with you about your land, and I was content to let you run on your courſe. But doe you forget that it is pawn'd to me for your good behaviour?

Simp. Sir, ſuch a thing there was. But my hope is you will not be my hinderance.

Anto. Your hinderance. No; but if this be true (as you

cannot deny it) haue you not forfeited your land and writings by your euill behaviour, offering to ſell it to a ſtranger and not to me?

Frith. That's a plaine caſe Sir. Ile not meddle with his land, nor any of my neighbours ſhall, for I will tell them all: Nay, I may ſay to you Sir, I am told he hath no good title to it.

Anto. Were you told ſo? Well, farewell neighbour *Frith. Exit* Frith. How now *Simplo.* To keepe your land, no man will be your Tenant? and to ſell it, who will deale with you? Did you not heare him ſay it is reported you haue no good title? Well; in hope you will doe me true ſervice, I will helpe you out of theſe bryers. Tell mee true. What ſhould he haue given for your land?

Simp. Indeed Sir he ſhould haue pay'd me 150l. And if you helpe me not I am vndone.

Anto. It had beene worth 150l. if it had not beene thus diſgrac'd, but now 'tis worth litle. Well, if I giue you 100l. for it, what will you ſay?

Simp. If you will giue me 100l. for it, I ſhall thinke my ſelfe much bound to you while I live. And ſo I doubt not but you will keepe the land ſafe. For the title was as good as could be vntill you had my writings. It may be they took wet in the laſt great raine, and ſo they did ſhrinke.

Anto. I will giue thee 100l. and no raine will ſhrinke the mony: the Sunne will doe it moſt hurt: for it will melt very faſt.

Simp. You know how to keepe it from melting better then I. Let me intreat you to order it as your owne.

Anto. I will giue thee my credit for that. *Exeunt Anto.*

Secu. It is much to be fear'd that this greedie griper will vtterly ſpoile this poore man both of money and land, his minde is altogether vpon deceit and ruine of others. 'Tis pitie any honeſt bodie ſhould haue to do with him that ſtudieth nothing but miſchiefe.

Her. I am ſorry to ſee ſo much wickednesſe in one man as appeares in him, hee is able to infect a whole countrie.

And

And it were a happie thing if hee were baniſhed the commerce of all Chriſtians.

Act. III. Scena. I.

Enter Sperato *with hauke and ſpaniels.*
Spurco *with hounds and* Gulato.

Of all the muſicke in the world there is none like to that which is found in hauking. For, the queſting of Spaniels, the ſpring of Partridges, the gingling of Haukes bels, and thundring of horſe heeles is the beſt contort, and pleaſeth me aboue all delights.

Spur. Your compariſon is too generall. Had you excepted hunting I might haue join'd hands with you againſt all others, but now I am become your adverſary. For it is confeſſed of all ſorts, that the muſicke in hunting, both for continuance of the ſport. for a delightfull exerciſe contenting the eare, and gentle-man-like paſtime the world cannot compare with vs; and ſo we hunters cary the *Bell* away.

Sper. Indeed you hunters carie the *Bell*, but not for any good doing, no more then you doe by carying the horne to every mans houſe. What time and order your hounds obſerue with their naturall harmonie, I will not diſpute (they and their keepers being ſeldome in order) but of this I am ſure, that there are few kennells of hounds in England, but while ſome are in chaſe after Hare, or Fox, others are killing ſheep in full crie of the poore harmeleſſe beaſt: wherevpon is growne that proverbe. *The Fox kills the lambs, and the hounds the old ſheep.* But I cannot indure you ſhould challenge hunting to ſuit better with a gentlemā then hauking. Everie Clowne can keepe a dog, and the more carion he eateth the more egregiouſlie he ſmelleth: but the hauke adorneth a kings fiſt, beſides the admirable conqueſt the faulkner maketh in a haukes nature, bringing the wild Haggard hauing all the earth & ſeas to ſcowre over vncontrollablie, to attend and obeie her keeper ſo, that at his verie voice ſhe

turnes toward and ſtoupes to his gloue. Hounds are ſo prejudiciall to the common-wealth, that I dare vndertake to proue, that (next vnto drunkards) they are the greateſt ſpoilers of poore mens bread.

Gula. I like all well enough but the laſt words of yours (*Sperato.*) for mee thinkes it is as good ſport to heare the Falconer and the Hunter fall out, as for theeues to appeache one an other. Good fellowes take their liquor quietly without any of theſe faults, and helpe to hold vp tillage by the ſwift vtterance of the ſurmounting graine.

Spe. The immoderate and exceſſiue diſorder in drinking, and more then ſwiniſh ſwallowing, that neither bellie nor head can containe, but muſt recoile by the way it entred in, is the moſt pernicious inconvenience that this kingdome ſuffereth.

Gula. Your inuective againſt good companions (for ſo I muſt needes call them that loue drinke) is to bee refelled rather with a Cudgill, then with reaſon. When had you any gallant Captaine, or man of reſolution but would drinke health after health, vntill himſelfe were paſt health and helpe?

Who was more valiant then Captaine Shinke?
Yet more then he, who loued drinke?

Spe. Like matter, like patron was his valor in his drinke? or was he beſt able to performe a noble exploite, when his legges failed his giddie head?

No, he was euer like a Swine,
When ſtrength of drinke clos'd his eyen.

Exeunt omnes.

ACT. III. SCEN. II.

Enter Inſatiato *with his page* Infælicto.

Boy, a pipe of *Tobaccho.* What is it a clocke?

Infæ. It is almoſt eleuen.

Inſati. I doubt it be no more indeed. I am ſo ſleepie ſtill: goe

goe ſee if *Monſieur Parvagracio* be ſtirring. *Exit Infel.* I am verie melancholicke this morning whatſoeuer I aile. I care not if I ſend for my Phyſician: or whether the cauſe be that I loſt all my monie yeſternight, and now know not where to get more vntill I haue conferred with my Agent for diſcommodities, nor where to dine ſcot-free in the meane time. *Enter Infelicia.*

Infel. Sir, hee was aſleepe when I came to his chamber, but his page wak'd him. He remembers his loue, and deſires you to be at his chamber an houre hence, then his Barber comes, as he does everie ſonday in ſteed of praiers. Hee charg'd mee to tell you that hee hath an ounce of the moſt tranſcendēt *Tobaccho* that ever croſs'd the ſalts, ſent him by a Ladie of his ſecret knowledge and yours, with whom you both muſt dine this day. The propertie of this *Tobaccho* is to yeeld a porringer full of *Rheume* everie pipefull: and procure ventoſitie conveniently to deſcend verie odoriferous, and ſecure from *audibility*. She reſerues ſtore of it for her owne ſpeciall vſe in times of neceſſitie, as of attendance in Court, hearing of Plaies, ſitting at Cards, and the like. Further, that a little of it taken pill-faſhion, will diffuſe and diſperſe *mixion*, ſo that a Ladie may abide in companie fortie eight houres, not diſpoſed to *evaporation*. Beſides he will'd me to tell you, that this Ladie yeſterday hath receiued a booke from a friend of hers that went ouer with Sir *Robert Sherley* into *Perſia*, entitled *de flatibus ſeparandis ac dividendis, eoſq; emittendis*; not forward at the face as gamers vſe to doe in warres, but *arere*, as *Iacke-an-apes* deliuers *ſquibs*, written by a learned Phyſician doctorated by the magnificent order of the *Mountebankes* there. She will anon at dinner intreate you two to lay your heads together for tranſlating this booke into Engliſh And where you finde any ſent worth the noſing, you will make ſtoppes vpon it, and deliuer your opinion by way of comment for the better vndertaking the ſence, with the particular cauſes and effects of euery ſeuerall and diſtinct fume produced thereby. And hereafter

after at better leiſure ſhe will haue the ſubiect of the whole booke *Anatomatized* by her owne Surgeon, and ſet forth in due proportion and colors, and giue it a conuenient roome in her galletie.

Inſat. This is good newes; ſhall wee dine there? and ſmuffe this daintie *Tobaccho*? that's excellent. heere's a ſhilling to drinke (*he feeles in his pocket, and finding no mony there, ſaith*) goe too, 'tis no matter now: the next time I haue a good hand at dice Ile giue thee two ſhillings. Why now I feele my ſelfe well againe. Goe boy, tell my Phyſician he ſhall not neede to come. (*Infælicto is going.*) Stay, I haue not ſent for him now I remember me. *Exeunt.*

Act. III. Scena III.

Enter Antonio, Proberio *and* Simplo.

Haue you done my buſineſſe (*Proberio*) with the Knight and his ſonne-in-law?

Pro. I haue caſt vp theſe accompts exactly, and your ſhare is to pay 200l. and no more, I haue often viſited them, and put them to ſuch a plunge as you neuer ſaw: for they ſay you ought to pay 400l. and yet they cannot auoide but they muſt pay 800l. They haue loſt their notes, their ſeruants be chang'd: and they are ſo puſſled as you never knew men: they deſire reſpite a weeke. I gaue it them, and ſo it reſts.

Anto. *Ha, ha, he.* And did the fat Knight fret ſo? let him fry too. I will ſticke cloſe to my counterbands.

Pro. Sir I thought good to put you in mind of one thing. You haue my bonds of eight or nine ſcore pounds in your hands, diſcharg'd tenne yeares ſince, I pray you let me haue them vp.

Anto. O, take no care, they ſhall never hurt you.

Pro. But I wiſh I had them vp, we are all mortall.

Anto. The next time, I light on them I will cancel them. *Simplo.* goe you to Miſtris *Bac*, deſire her to lend me halfe a dozen egges vntill market day, look you chuſe the faireſt.

Exit

Exit Simplo. Proberio, I would faine do ſomwhat for you. A friend of mine wants a good Steward, I will helpe you with the place: or there is a widow worth 400l. I thinke I can make the match for you.

Pro. I thanke you Sir, either of them I will accept. *(hee turnes to the people.)* This is like his 100l. offer which his meſſenger ranne away withall. It will come to nothing; but now I know he hath ſome buſines for me.

Ant. I would faine haue your opinion in a bargain of land I haue made with one *Pohſſib*, to the value of 7000l. drawn into articles with both our hands to it. The chiefe motive of our bargaine is a mariage betweene two yong children. I pray you calculate whether the bargaine bee gainefull or no.

Pro. If you haue bargained alreadie, it is too late for me to deliuer my opinion.

Anto. Not a whit too late. There is nothing done but the land aſſured to me, and 3000l. of mony payd. If I finde it not fit for me, Ile rend the bargaine all to ſhivers. What? two words to a bargaine.

Pro. Why. I know you can doe it if you liſt, you can play faſt and looſe aſwell as any man. Well, you ſhall ſoone know how I like it. *Exit.*

Anto. I neuer finiſh'd any bargaine yet, nor doe I meane this ſhalbe the firſt.

Redit Simplo.

Goe to the Lawyer, and aske if the writings be ready for your land, that you may receiue your 100l. *Exit* Simplo. I haue a couple of followers moſt vnfit for my humour. *Proberio* is ſo full of *ſcrupuloſity*, that nothing paſſes his fingers that ſavers not of *conſcience*. Such a man would I deale withall, but not dwell withall. Such a man would I haue deale with me, but not deale for me. *Simplo*, he is diligent, but alas his braines want ſalt.

Redit Simplo.

Sim. Sir, the writings are done, when you pleaſe I am

readie to ſeale. I thinke the Lawyer is a verie honeſt man, he hath made them reaſonable me thinkes: for I am but to warrant it from all men, I haue nothing to doe with women.

Anto. It is well. Wee will goe preſently. But I muſt ſtay vntill *Proberio* come: for I doe not well know where I am vntill he haue done a buſines of mine.

Sim. Sir I met him in Chauncery Lane, he promiſed to be heere before me, but I made great haſte to tell you the writings were readie. I would ſo faine be a ſealing. I am wonderfully fallen out with my land.

Enter Proberio.

Pro. Sir, the bargaine with Maſter *Pohſſib* is the worſt that ever was made: for if he or his wife doe liue 30 yeares, (as by probabilitie they will) you loſe 17000l. by the bargaine at leaſt. And if they die ſooner, you ſhall ſaue litle. Therefore my advice is, that either you buy it abſolutely for readie monie, or yeeld it backe with reaſonable conſideration for your monie lent, ſo ſhall you be free from exclamations.

Anto. I thought ſo. I warrant thou art as fearefull of exclamations, as of thunder-bolts: there is nothing with you but exclamations, imputations, infamie, reports, diſcredite, and the like. A ruſh, a ruſh, and they are all one to me. Well, I thanke you for your paines. Now ply the Knight & his Father-in-law about the 1000l. accompt.

Pro. I will. *(he turnes to the people)* then vntill the next neede I am caſhier'd.

Exit Prob. Anto. *et* Simplo.

Secu. What is your opinion Sir *Hermite* of this mans diſpoſition?

Her. Alas, I could wiſh the poore man would conſider better of his ſoules ſtate. Hee ſeemeth to haue a great wit, which he bendeth wholly to gather worldly wealth, not regarding how he gets it. We that haue put riches in the laſt place of our care, or rather flye from them as pernicious doe indeed,

Indeed, condemne for follie all the carking and ſtudie to encreaſe our owne hurts as they will proue to be, eſpecially gotten by indirect meanes.

Secu. Doe you call him poore, who is reckoned very rich, and full of money to put out for gaine? ſuch men are now-a-dayes highly eſteemed, much ſued vnto, and among their praiſes that is chiefe, that he excelleth others in mony at vſe. And in the countrie among plaine fellowes it is a ſpeciall marke or token that he is a good man (as they call him) if he haue 100l. or two at vſe, and without that he is not counted ſound, or out of debt.

Her. More is the pitie. It was wont to bee a thing odious among Chriſtians, and vſed by none but *Iewes*. And therefore we call ſuch men poore, as being needie of goodnes and grace, haue they never ſo great aboundance ſo gotten as they make their owners beggerly for grace.

Act. III. Scen. IV.

Enter Inſatiato.

Tis a marvailous toile and trouble that we courtiers are put to, and litle conſidered by the world abroad: for it is commonly midnight before wee can be ſhewed our chambers. There wee lye like dead perſons vntill next day at noone. All this while no bodie comes at vs, nor prouides vs any ſupping, nor ſo much as moanes vs. Then are we forced to riſe for ſtark hunger. Thus tyed to our dinner till two of the clocke: from that time vntill foure, we muſt not ſtirre from our ſeate, one diſcourſe after an other holdes vs faſt. Then goe we on viſitation from chamber to chamber: and before wee know perfectly how euery one had their health ſince yeſternight, and exchanged our complementall tearmes, the clocke ſtrikes ſeuen. Then dutie cals vs to Court our moſt reſpected and perfumed Miſtris, whereof we are not diſcharged till nine. Now ſupper bids euery one repair to his meſſe, which commonly continueth no longer

then tenne. And ſo after a craſh of two houres in play, wee are driuen euery one to his kennell at midnight, as I ſaid before. And this miſerable life we leade, and yet are wee envyed to haue all the pleaſures in the world. But I thinke no wiſe man will ſo iudge if he felt that we know. *Exit.*

Enter Gulato, *and* Sperato.

Maſter *Sperato*. I haue much deſired to debate with you the matter of drinking, and neceſſity therof, becauſe at our laſt meeting here you were ſo bitter in ſpeech as if wormewood had bene all night ſteep't in your ſtomacke. Therfore I ſent for you once againe to try if I can perſwade you to recantation of your errour.

Sper. That you may eaſily doe *Gulato*. For if ſinging the ſame ſong ouer againe may pleaſure you, I can doe it with much addition of voluntary.

Gula. Is it euen ſo? then I ſee thou want'ſt breeding, that art ingrateſull for a kindnes offered; and ignorant, not ſenſible of the ſalutiferous operation of well brewed *Ale*: which for thy edification, I wlll manifeſt and demonſtrate by a very familiar and apt ſimilitude: and within the circumference of thy feeble comprehenſion, whereunto I wil now accommodate my whole otation.

Spe. You are growen very eloquent of late. I thinke the *Ale* hath oyl'd your tongue.

Gula. Why, thou art in the right. I tell thee I am at this inſtant ſo inflamed with the ſpirit of mault, and my wits ſo refined with the manifold reverberations, and continuall poſting correſpondence betweene the reſidence of that liquor in my ſtomacke, and the *quintiſencicall* receites in my head, that no particle of time paſſeth, but whole ſtreames of exufflations, and inſufflations aſcend to the braines, and there worke wonders. By reaſon whereof it were not hard for me to furniſh *Ryder* himſelfe with 2000 new words not yet ſeene in his Dictionarie. I could turne *Aſtronomer*, and giue names to any ſtarres that want. I can paſſe for a Phyſician among many fooles, and kill as many as the beſt *Doctar*

of

of them all. Finally, what would I not vndertake as now I am armed? But to returne to my druggicall ſimilitude, from which thy waywardnes hath diverted me.

Spe. Nay, let that alone vntill an other time. I vnderſtand alreadie as much as I neede for that matter: I muſt be gone.

Gula. You ſhall ſtay to heare it; and let mee haue your iudgment, whether I might not with a little reading proue a perfect *vrinaliſt*.

Spe. You are ſo troubleſome when you fall into this caſe that I cannot skill of your companie.

Gula. I tell thee 'tis the beſt Phyſicke that euer thou hadſt.

Spe. I beleeue it before-hand. What needs you more?

Enter Spurco *and* Inſatiato.

Gula. O Maſter *Spurco*, you are welcome: ſpeake your minde freely: doe not you thinke it better to ſit merily a whole winters day, and moſt part of the night by a good fire, and command (like men of authoritie) the Tapſter to fill vs *an Ocean* of drinke if we liſt, and there among good fellowes to heare more newes then all the world knowes to be true, then to toyle and traſh in the dirt without converſation, ſeldome comming neere one another as Hunters doe.

Spur. No certainely. I hold it a beaſtly thing to ſit beſealing vpon a bench, and ſuck in drinke, as pigges do dregges in a trough: which cuſtome although ſome baſe Huntſmen, and Falconers vſe, yet if I did thinke that *Hunting* were as odious and diſpleaſing to *God* as drunkenneſſe is, I would ſoone diſpatch my dogges.

Inſat. And I will free the Court from the fowle & loathſome cuſtome of drunkenneſſe. For ſeldome and with very few it is vſed there. Officers, and order forbids it as vnſeemly for a Princes palace. I wiſh we were as cleare from Idleneſſe, pride, diſdaine, envy, lecherie, covetouſneſſe, flatte-

ry, lying, coſenage, oppreſſion, and vnthriftines, as we are from drunkenneſſe.

Secu. Mary Sir, theſe are vices enow. And except you were guilty of all the deadly ſinnes, and breach of every commandement, I know not what you could adde to theſe.

Her. The delights of hunting and hawking, as alſo of other exerciſes, were (no doubt) ordained by God to comfort man in his baniſhment heere, and to giue him a taſte of the vnſpeakable pleaſures in Heauen, (our owne countrie) but the exceſſe and abuſe of any paſtime, argues the receiuer vnreaſonable, and turnes the benefite into detriment.

Of drunkards I ſay ſhortly and ſharply; they deprave Gods bleſſings, robbe and murder the poore, vndoe the Common-wealth, bring Gods curſe vpon the countrie; depriue themſelues of Heauen, and merite *Hell.*

The Courtier (who ought to bee the ſquare of the countrie by his civill example) puls vpon himſelfe the ruine of millions, and ſinneth much with doing litle.

Gula. I am cruſhed in the head: no more drinking; farewell good Ale.

Inſa. Giue me thy hand. Wee are all in little better caſe for any thing I heare by the iudgment of wiſe men.

Exeunt.

Act. IIII. Scen. I.

Enter Antonio, Proberio, Simplo.

I haue had ſuch a ſtirre with this ſame begger *Pohſſib*, his wife, and his friends; and ſo many complaints they haue made to the King and Councill, and turne themſelues into all ſhapes and faces to force mee either to goe through with the bargaine or giue it ouer, that diverſe of my friends are brought to favour his part for ſtarke equities ſake. But doe all what they can I will haue it, and not haue it: I will hold it, and not hold it. And I will none of the purchaſe, and yet not giue it over.

Pro.

Pro. I told you Sir, what an intricate buſineſſe it would proue to be, and full of ſlander: therefore I wiſh t you to end it by yeelding the bargaine backe, for that wilbe the end of it.

Anto. Thou knoweſt not what wilbe the end of it, nor I my ſelfe; but I can beſt gueſſe, becauſe I know his poore eſtate. I haue made a priuie ſearch into his debts; and ſome creditors I haue pull'd vpon him ſooner then they meant. And in writing I haue every ſumme he oweth to neighbors, to workemen, and to his very ſervants. And this is the plummet I ſound withall. This muſt bring the fiſh into my net *Proberio.* But what haue you done with the Knight and his Father-in-Law Maſter *Eloc*, for the 1000l. accompt?

Pro. Sir, that accompt goes otherwiſe then you would haue it; for they proue that there was 1200l. taken vp, and of that you are to pay 400l.

Anto. Are you ſure of that?

Pro. I am ſo ſure, that I am aſhamed euer to haue ſpoken in a matter ſo contrarie to good conſcience.

Anto. You are ſo ſpic'd-conſcienc'd, that there is no dealing with you. Will you demand if they will ſweare in Chancery, that ſo is the accompt.

Pro. That I will doe, and I am ſure they will not refuſe it. (*he turnes to the people, and ſaith*) this is but to colour his diſhoneſt meaning, he knoweth the truth as well and better then they. *Exit* Prob.

Anto. Theſe fellowes are ſo raſh, that a litle thing will ſatisfie them. I am partly perſwaded the accompts be as he ſpeaketh, but it is good to be ſure. Thus thou muſt do *Simplo* in *like* caſes, if thou wilt be a wiſe, politicke and warie fellow.

Simp. I heare it well Sir, and haue lock'd it vp ſafely in my *memento*. I giue you many thankes for the 100l. you gaue me for my land, and for your carefull putting out the money as your owne. I againe for my part haue ſealed the writings, and am ready to doe any thing els for making it

ſure.

ſure to you. 'Tis a good hearing that Maſter and man agree ſo well as your worſhip and I doe now. Now they ſay 'tis a good title, and they will not make queſtion of it, ſince you haue gotten it.

Anto. No, I thinke not: for all their babling they will not eaſily beginne ſuite with me to recouer it away.

Simp. Feare nothing of that Sir, I can tell you newes. They ſay now your title to it is as good as any man hath to his land. And that you will keepe my 100l. as ſafe as the land; and that's good for me.

Anto. That's no newes. You may ſee now what it is to be circumſpect in my dealing, and to haue a name to hold faſt. Learne this againſt the time that you haue more land.

Exeunt.

ACT. IIII. SCEN. II.

Intrant Ruſtico *et* Hortano.

Did you euer heare (neighbour *Hortano*) ſuch a broyle betweene man and wife as yonder was betweene *Porco* and his wife? you and I did very wiſely to come away. For ſure they did ſtriue before vs for their credit ſake to get the victorie of each other by ſcolding; now we are gone perhaps they will giue over. Mee thought it was very noyſome to heare ſuch vnſeemely words paſſe from maried folke.

Hor. Sure their bitterneſſe paſs'd the bounds of humanitie. They make me afraid of marying, if ſuch jarres fall out betweene thoſe that be one fleſh.

Ruſt. Let it not diſcourage you more then it repents me that I am maried: for it lyes in your power to haue all well and quiet if you chance to mary euen one of the ſhort ribs of the great Divell.

Hor. How can that be neighbour *Ruſtico*? if you can teach me that, you doe much. For I haue heard many ſay, that it is impoſſible to tame a ſhrew by any meanes, except by hauing no woman at all.

Ruſt.

Ruſt. If you talke of taming by violence, you ſay well, it cannot be, for the more you ſtriue to break their ſtomack, the more it growes; like *camamile*, the more you tread it, the more it ſpreades; and like a tree felled, where will grow 40 ſprings. But take a twig by the top, and gently bend it by litle and litle, it will grow in what faſhion you will. A waſp is a ſhrewd ſtinging beaſt by nature, but if ſhee light vpon your face and hands, and creepe vp and downe, let her alone, and take her pleaſure, ſhe will doe you no harme, and quietly paſſe away. So if your wife will meddle with all things, giue her libertie to doe what ſhe will, you ſhall haue her merry els ſhe were worſe then the Divell.

Hor. I thinke this is very likely: but who can endure his wife to doe what ſhe liſteth at all times?

Ruſt. That can I, and that muſt you, or els you are not wiſe; for if you may haue peace vpon any conditions, is it not your fault if you chuſe to be jarring?

Hor. But I haue heard ſay, it is better to haue honorable warres, then inconvenient peace.

Ruſt. That is among ſtrangers and enemies; but among friends, and with your ſelfe, what peace can bee diſhonourable?

Hor. How commeſt thou to be ſo cunning in this kinde of argument?

Ruſt. Euen as you may if you will take the courſe that I doe. I haue a wife, the beſt creature that euer you ſaw in the order that ſhe takes with me. But if I ſhould be churliſh, as perhaps you would be, and croſſe her never ſo little, ſhee would rage like a fury of Hell. She ſpeakes, and I giue eare; ſhe giues counſell, and I practiſe; ſhe commands, & I obey; ſhe chides, and I hold my peace; ſhe preaches, and I beleue; thus we liue as louingly as Maſter and Schoiler.

Hor. But who could abide his wife to teach and controlle him?

Ruſt. Enery man that loues his eaſe. And if all wiues be as mine is, ſhe ſhalbe thrice happy to obey her. For ſhe is the

beſt woman to bring vp husbands that euer was borne. She will ſo inſtruct them in the wonderfull vertue of patience, that if they wilbe ruled by her monitions, they ſhalbe as good as martyrs, a great deale better then liuing Saints. I thanke her heartily, ſhe is my *Pilcatory* in this world, I ſhal goe ſtraight to *Heaven* whenſoeuer I dye. Therefore leſt I ſhould loſe the benefite of the bleſſed ſtate I ſtand in by any miſdemeanour of mine. I dare not offend her in the leaſt matter. O 'tis a great bleſſing to haue ſuch a wife.

Hor. But for all this it ſhould bee long before I would chuſe ſuch a wife, which did deſire to cary ſuch a hand ouer me as ſhe doth ouer thee.

Ruſt. O neighbour *Hortano*, that thou didſt but taſte of the fruites of patience! *Intrat* Lamia *his wife with a cudgill of an ell long, and counterfeiting to be a* Puritan, *lifting her eyes vpward.)* Looke where my wife is; I know her by the ſigne of the Bible. See how deuout ſhe is. She neuer lookes lightly lower then the Element. You may ſay what you will now, ſhe cannot heare a word, her meditations be ſo fervent.

Hor. Why doth ſhe cary that cudgill while ſhe is praying?

Ruſt. (*She openeth her Bible, and makes ſhew to reade, and many times turnes her eyes with the white vpward.*) That is her rod of diſcipline, and a ſtrange thing it is which now I tell you. She is never ſo rapt vp in her deuotions, but if I cõmit the leaſt fault (as wretched man that I am many times I doe, and my beſt actions are abhominable) ſhe perceiues it preſently (and yet is deafe to all other noiſe) and ſhe comes to me fiercely in the heate of her charitie, and corrects mee verie handſomely with that wand.

Hor. But will ſhe correct her ſeruants with this cudgill?

Ruſt. O no, verie ſeldome, ſhee does not loue them ſo well) except it be a verie great fault. But in me (for the entire loue ſhe beares me) ſhe will not ſuffer the leaſt ſinne vnpuniſhed, leſt (as ſhe ſaith) any might remaine to bee rebuked

fed by hell fire.

Hor. But I had rather be her ſeruant, then her husband, if ſhe ſtrike with ſuch twigges.

Ruſt. Had you ſo? but ſo had not I. For by this I am made ſure of my election, when I doe patiently endure ſo great correction.

Hor. How doth ſhee bring vp thy ſonne *Iacke*?

Ruſt. Admirably well: for leſt he ſhould proue an Idolatour ſhee will not let him aske bleſſing vpon his knees. And leſt he ſhould abate of his mettle and ſtomacke, he muſt neuer put off his hat to vs, nor be denied anything he cals for: ſo that being now but ſixe yeares old he will fight, ſcratch, and tumble himſelfe vpon the ground, crying vntill his hart breake if he may not haue his will in every thing. Then is there no way but giue it him, or els he will die with skreming. O, he will proue a man of outragious ſpirit. It makes me ſometimes doubt he ſhould not be my child, he hath ſo noble a ſtomacke, farre beyond mine. And, but that I know his mother to be a verie religious profeſſour, I aſſure you it would trouble me much, he diſcouereth ſo much furie in his faſhions, and ſuch might by his madneſſe, that I thinke many times ſome gyant got him when my wife was aſleepe, for I am ſure ſhe would never ſuffer it waking.

Hor. Nay, nay, if your wife bee a woman of that command as you deſcribe her to be, and as ſhe makes ſhew of no leſſe by her part, it may well be, the Boy takes his courage from her, and his outward perſonage from you.

Ruſt. You ſay well neighbour *Hortano*, that may be; but I doe halfe miſtruſt my owne worth in getting ſuch a child: but yet I loue him as well as if he were my owne.

La. I came hither to ſeeke a kinde of husband that I haue. He wants gouerment and diſcipline (I am ſure) ere this time: for I haue not ſeene him theſe three dayes paſt: the poore man wilbe vndone, if I light not on him ſhortly.

Ruſt. O, ſhee ſeekes me. What a good woman is this? I muſt needes goe to her. Stand by neighbour, and note

how zealouſly ſhe will edifie me. How doe yon good wife? I knew it was you ſo ſoone as I ſaw you any thing neere me. May I be ſo bold as to aske where you haue been theſe two or three daies? My boy *Iacke* and I thinke long vntill you come home.

La. Why ſhould you aske ſo fooliſh a queſtion? you knowe that I muſt frequent my contemplation: in which I cannot be leſſe then two or three daies: the fervour of ſpirit is ſuch among the elect that they may not depart in ſhort time from their meditations, eſpecially having ſuch learned Teachers among vs, that are never wearied, and willing to accompanie and conduct vs in the darkeſt dangers. O the delights, pleaſures, and ſweet delectations that we feele during the time of theſe contemplations, that wee thinke no time contentedly ſpent but when we are imployed in theſe exerciſes. I thinke verily my goodly boy *Iacke* was begotten and conceiued in theſe deepe contemplations.

Ruſt. What wife; and I not there?

La. *Alas* man, why ſhould you trouble your ſelfe with theſe matters which be ſo farre out of your reach? was it not enough if my ſpirit did wiſhe you preſent? or that in conceite you were with me? what if you were aſleepe at that inſtant, and ſo it were reuealed to me by the ſpirit? or if you had beene preſent, and my ſpirit ſhould inwardly teſtifie vnto me that a teaching *Saint* muſt be preferred, ought not you to giue place? I pray you husband giue over to muſe on theſe hidden ſecrets, for otherwiſe theſe thoughts may make you *horne-mad.*

Hor. How can you defend that to be lawfull to be gotten with child by any but your husband?

Ruſt. Indeed wife I cannot but thinke this reaſon good that you ſay, but I would haue beene glad to bee father to my owne child if it had pleas'd you.

La. What doe you talke of reaſon? it is beyond reaſon. It is matter of predeſtination, and preordination. Where is now your obedience and patience ſo often inculked vnto you?

vnto you? I perceiue it is readie to flie out by your exteriour parts, but I will chaſtiſe this rebellious fleſh, and make it ſubiect to the ſpirit. *(then ſhe beateth him ſoundly.)*

Hor. Where learn'd you to beate your husband?

La. It is lawfull & poſſible for me to extract teares from his flinty hart with this rod of diſcipline, correcting him as the ſpirit moueth me.

Hor. But how ſhall he know that a good ſpirit moueth you to correct him?

La. That appertaines not to him to examine. It is ſufficient that his wife hath that inward teſtimonie which enableth and emboldeneth her to doe her function, and to miniſter diſciplinary documents. And this hee is firmely to hold, or els he loſeth his election.

Ruſt. Nay wife, rather then I ſhould not be one of the elect I pray you beate me againe.

La. You are not to informe me when I ſhall ſtrike. It is the liuely ſpirit which directeth me: and now it telleth me you ſtrike not at this time more to bee humbled. Goe in peace, and be patient.

Ruſt. O Gods bleſſing on thy kinde heart. See how fauourable a ſpirit ſhe hath. I cannot chuſe but weepe for this loue. *Then he weepes and howles with hands before his face.*

La. Loe now *Hortano* the vertue of this rod, which bringeth ſo plentifull teares from this *Rockie* ſtomacke of his.

Hor. But for all this I ſee no ground or proofe you haue, that a wife ſhall take vpon her to teach and correct her husband. You alleage Scripture as farre as *Rome* is from *Rockingham*, and expound it at your pleaſure, and frame it to your owne fancie: but if I were your husband I would cudgill you well, and by the word maintaine it better.

La. What not yet vnderſtand'ſt thou the text? *O foole, and ſlow of beliefe!* If thou were my husband *(Then ſhee ſhakes the cudgill at him)* I would ding it into thy braine in another faſhion then by proofes. I pre thee tell me, muſt

not men be taught and inſtructed?

Hor. Yes: but what, ſhall women doe it?

La. Who els I pray you? ſhall beaſts doe it? Although women may not ſpeake in the Church (which is great pity) yet we may preach in chambers, and men are tyed to heare vs.

Hor. No, nor ſluts neither: but men ſhall inſtruct men.

La. Iump. And ſo womnn inſtruct women, and none of them ſhall come to other. And how ſhall there then be procreation of the holy ones, and the *Iſraell* of God bee multiplied?

Ruſt. Nay neighbour *Hortano*, I warrant you my wife will proue any thing ſhe ſaith one way or other. But good wife, let me intreate one thing at your hands (if your ſpirit cõſent, that is, that I may call your ſon *Iacke* my boy for my credit ſake. And that he may know no other but he is mine, and then ſhall I be quiet in minde, and thinke you deale verie iuſtlie and liberallie with me.

La. With all my heart. And I profeſſe vnto you that hee ſhall neuer know otherwiſe by me: but I doubt his generous ſpirit will not ſuffer him (after a few yeares of diſcretion) to tarrie long in that errour, but that he will heroicallie diſdaine to haue you otherwiſe accompted of then his reputed father: and that he is rather the ſonne of ſome zealous brother, who neuer ſees the Relikes of Charing-croſſe, but wiſheth hee were on horſe-backe with a launce in his hand, in full ſpeed to beare it downe. And yet his mother extreame honeſt for all this.

Ruſt. All this I ſtedfaſtlie beleeue. And I am afraide my owne weakenes wilbe the firſt diſcoverer, and pleade not guiltie to getting of ſuch a ſonne. Nevertheles (good wife) I cannot chuſe but thanke you much for your kindnes, that he ſhalbe called my ſonne, that men may thinke ſo noblie yet of me to doe ſuch a deed. And for you wife, I will ſweare you are a verie honeſt woman for all this.

La. No husband. You ſhall not ſweare ſo raſhlie. I thanke

thanke you as much as though you did. Your faith ſhall ſaue you without ſwearing. *Exit* Lamia.

Ruſt. Was ever man more bleſſed with a wife then I am? *(Then he holds his hands before his face, & fals to a ſilent meditation a prety while, at laſt fetching a great ſigh, hee ſaith)* The Lord make me thankfull. *(Then he hides his face with his hands againe, and ſo ſtandeth a while ſighing and ſobbing, vntill* Hortano *ſhake him by the arme, ſaying.)*

Hor. How now *Ruſtico*, what wilt thou doe? kill thy ſelfe with this ſame fooliſh zeale? plucke vp a good heart, and liue to ſee thy boy a man.

Ruſt. A man. He is a man already at ſixe yeares age by his great ſtomacke; and I thinke in my conſcience I am not halfe his father. But I beſhrew you for troubling mee, you haue done you know not what: for I was euen melting into a martir.

Hor. A martir. How canſt thou be a martir?

Ruſt. O yes, and I ſhall die ſo patiently, that I dare not call for a poſſet how ſicke ſoeuer I be for feare of ſinning, till the very point of death. And now I begin to be hart-ſick.

Hor. If you find your ſelfe ſo ſicke indeed, I wiſh you to make your will, and diſpoſe of your eſtate.

Ruſt. How? make my will? thats the next way to die in earneſt.

Hor. Not a whit neerer death for that.

Ruſt. O yes. A will, and a toling bell are as preſent death as Gods tokens. No: ile none of that.

Hor. Let me perſwade you (neighbour *Ruſtico*) to make your will. I aſſure you it is ſuperſtition to thinke death to be nerer you for that cauſe.

Ruſt. Superſtition. The Lord defend me. I had rather not to obſerue order in anie thing then to be thought ſuperſtitious. I agree to you neighbour, and thank you for your gentle perſwaſion. I will preſently doe it while I am in perfect memory.

1. First, for my ſoule; I will not bequeath it to God, but let

it

it goe euen as it is predeſtinated.

2 My body may be buried if my executor wil pay for it, or elſe let it alone, and be patient, as I was when I liued.

3 At my buriall I deſire my wife to preach, and no body to heare her but my ſweet boy *Iacke* and I.

4 Fortie ſhillings I giue to any man that ſhall put me into the booke of Martires.

5 My wit, & ſuch like moueables I leaue as an heireloome to my ſonne *Iacke (then lifting his eies vpward)* vpon whom my deſire is that the firmament may powre downe as many ioyfull lots as there are heares vpon his fingers ends; & that his ſeed may multiplie like mice in a maltheape.

6 All my breeches I beſtow vpon my beloued wife.

7 My land (if any be giuen me after my death) I freely beſtow vpon him that ſhall marrie her to amend his bargaine.

8 The reſt of my goods and chattles which cannot bee found I will ſhall be equally deuided (at my executors diſcretion) among the poore of the pariſh whereſoeuer I ſhall die.

9 And of this my laſt will and teſtament I make the longeſt liuer in London my ſole executor, becauſe I will haue no fighting, nor ſuits in law for my goods.

10 And you neighbour *Horſano* I make ouerſeer of this my will, and for your paines to be taken therein, I giue you all that ſhall be ouerplus after execution of the ſame.

Now my ſight failes. Lead me, lead mee good neighbour home, and to bed, and ſo farwell, and good night. *Exeunt.*

Act. III. Scena III.

Intrant Antonio, Noverindo, & Proberio.

Here is more worke for vs *Noverindo* (and wee will not worke for ſimple fees though *fœdum ſimplex* bee a good tenure) a friend of mine wants 2000 and I muſt haue it for him within theſe two daies or he ſeekes elſewhere.

Nov. In anie cafe hold him in, let him not ſcape, hee ſhall

paie

pay for his expedition. Ile about it, and Ile haue it for you within 24 houres.or Ile giue you my head(*hee goes forward a little,and ſuddenly ſteps backe.ſaying*) I had almoſt forgot a matter of waight: you are intreated by the whole companie of our ſort,that ſome order may bee taken to checke the ſawcineſſe of diuers meane perſons that enquire for monies to be taken vp. They make no more adoe, but with hats on their heads,aske the queſtion thus: haue you tool to lend vpon good ſecuritie: what a malepertnes and abuſe is this? Of my honeſtie Sir.(what a villain was I to ſweare ſo deeplie?)there be manie knights, and ſome Lords that haue not alwaies tool to lend vpon an inſtant. And then what reaſon is there,that we which haue it at all houres ſhould be ſo ſlēderly regarded?

Anto. You ſaie well *Noverindo*: I wiſh it to be redreſſed: but what would the companie haue me to doe?

Nov. This Sir: you are acquainted at Court: they intreat that you would vſe your frends to get a grant vnder the broad ſeale(whatſoeuer it coſt) that we may erect an office with a maſter and clarks belonging to it,to the ende that euerie one which wants monie may repaire thither, and vpon requeſt to the vnder clarks ſpeake with the maſter of the office,and thence take directions how to proceed, and ſo obtaine monie. This will make them knowe themſelues, and yeeld dutie to them that it appertaines: when they ſhall come by degrees to the worth of monie.

Anto. This I like well; but it will be a great charge to maintaine maſter and clarkes in an office, ſo ſhall wee looſe much out of our gaine.

Nov. Sir you miſtake it quite. The companie hath argued that caſe to and fro. The maſter and clarkes will pick out a liuing well enough I warrant you out of them that take vp monie,and this will free them from other brocage. As you knowe all offices are maintain'd by the ſuiters, not by the granters of the place.

Anto. Right: but who ſhall be at the charge of the patent?

Nov. That muſt be done by the companie. But weele loſe nothing by it. For wee are determined to let no monie goe but one waie or other we will get 30 in the 100. And if we giue commodities we will haue more: & tis reaſon too. The worſe the bargaine is, the more they muſt loſe that take it. And there is another thing that we will be at the charge of Sir. Wherein we muſt craue your helpe alſo. And that is; ſome armes from the king of Heraulds appropriated to our companie alone, and hanged vp behind the maſter of the office: this will giue honour to the place, and cauſe ſuiters to vnderſtand they enter into a court of command and authoritie. *Noverindo whiſpers Antonio in the eare while Proberio ſpeakes thus to the people.*

Pro. O, I could fit theſe fellowes to a haire. I could deviſe them a creſt as fit as a fan for a forehorſe.

Anto. Proberio: here is *Noverindo* hath a peece of imploiment for you, and thinks you can diſcharge it well if you liſt. And Ile ſee you well conſidred. It is this. That you moue the Heraulds to giue the companie a Creſt with the due circumſtances. And goe in my name they will doe it the more freelie.

Pro. Sir I am the onlie man for ſuch a buſineſſe. If the Herauld cannot aptly conceaue it, I can inſtruct him. Ile vndertake to haue it ſpeedilie.

Nov. Thanks *Proberio*: and thou ſhalt not travaile for vnthankfull perſons. *Exit Antonio.*

Pro. Sir, it wil coſt 10l beſides ſomwhat for expedition: and I muſt haue it readie to paie: for I will not come from him till I bring it.

Nov. Here is 10l and a peece for expedition: and another for thy paines: ſtudie hard to haue it exactly done, thou ſhalt haue two peeces more. (*Proberio makes haſt away, but Nov. cals him*) ſtaie, one word before you goe. Let it bee ſomewhat terrible to the beholders: weele make them doe (*that fame*) in their breeches.

Pro. But ſo you may ſcarre them quite awaie, they will come

come there no more.

Nov. I warrant thee: if they were ſure to goe to priſon within a while after, they will come againe for monie. They are verie ventrous: nay deſperate: nay *foolehardy*. O, monie is monie, and they muſt haue it.

Pro. Saie no more, Ile be your warrant, it ſhall bee fearefull enough. (*Exit Nov.*) and make ſome of you ſtaine the place you ſtand in, and looke backward what drops behind you. Let me alone, Ile dreſſe you as you ſhould bee trim'd 30 in the 100. Ile not forget that vpon my word. *Exit.*

Act. V. Scen. I.

Enter Malingua *the Lawyer*. Mureto *the Merchant, and* Granato *the Farmer.*

It is even high time the world were at an end, for I think all trades are decaying: when my father put me to the Innes of Court he adviſed me in anie caſe to ſtudie, ſo that I might be called to the barre, and then (ſaith he) feare not to liue in all plentie and credit. But I find it otherwiſe, for now that I am exalted thither, my law ſerues mee not to get my commons. I wiſh I had beene bred a Tapſter: that trade is now more gainefull with froth then ours with all our words. And for anie thing I ſee tis like to laſt to the worlds end, whereas ours can be good no longer then people bee contentious. And that is a ſpeciall argument the ale-ſellers vſe againſt vs, ſaying that we gaine by falling out of neighbours, & frends but they grow rich by meering of good fellowes, and ſitting together lovinglie. There are ſo manie hinderances growne vp of late that it is impoſſible our raigne ſhould long continue although it be true (and wee complaine not) that malice is as great among men as ever it was, and can be wiſhed: but the miſchiefe is, their monie failes, & they grow wiſer.

Mure. I marvaile what will ſatisfie your greedie deſires. haue you not the whole kingdome at your ſervice & becke?

what Lord, Knight, Gentleman, Merchant, Husbandman, or other sort of people is not attendant at your studie dores, with paying and praying? and glad that the fee which hee giues is of that glorious operation, that it breeds no wrinckles in your forehead, but is cheerefullie receaued? What *congees*, and submisse requests, to peruse their case with a little care? What troupes conduct you to the barre? What venison sent to your feasts? What respect and entertainement if you vouchsafe to visite their countrie houses? And finally, what honour and homage can bee done to subiects, but you haue it in all fulnes, and yet you whine as not contented. I perceiue you would murmure if you were so handled as poore merchants are, that vnlesse we turne Vsurers, we cannot liue.

Mali. You complaine without cause *Mureto.* Your case is farre better then ours: for if one countrie or commoditie afford not gaine, you can go into another, and choppe and change as often as you list. We are tied to one countrie and place. You may offer your wares and are sure to haue trafficke as the times and prices be. We may not tender our service to anie, but sit gaping in our chambers, as melancholicke as mice, vntill some bodie chance to knocke at the doore.

Gra. It is merie when fisher-men complaine of Heringmen. Surelie the world might well spare of both sorts of you a great number. Concerning you Master *Mureto*, it is cleare that you play the merchant with vs, who bite and whine at your impositions, although you lose nothing; but the whole burden thereof falles vpon them who spend the commodities, and must ere they buy, pay the shot of your impositions whatsoever it be.

And for you Master Lawyer, that grow fat with the drops which fals from other mens browes, and be merrie with the frets that gall the Clyents hearts: whose griefe is alwayes to heare of peace and charity; and reioyce with the Fox, that the hennes fall out for their pearch: what faulc-

finde

finde you with this world that was never ſo rich with envy, and full of ſuits? You are like the boxe among gameſters, which gaines whoſoever loſe. But if all men were of my temper, I would make you leape a yard high for a groate.

Mali. What, a whole yard? what if I were neuer at the dauncing ſchoole, and cannot caper ſo high?

Gra. Then thou ſhouldſt haue but two pence.

Mali. Nay; I know a tricke worth two of that. For if our craft faile, Ile turne miniſter: and that I am ſure will not decay.

Gra. Woe be to that Pariſh that ſhall haue a Lawyer to their Paſtour. ſome bee already troubled ſufficiently with citations; they neede no common Law writs. And without a *capias vtlegatum*, a Lawyer can never preach.

Mali. Who can endure this filthie Farmer to raile as he doth at vs two *Mureto*? Let vs ſet vpon him. Are you ſo free without fault Maſter *Granato*, that you may throw your ſtones ſo thicke at others? Belike no complaints are made againſt you for hoording vp corne againſt a deare yeare, for ſelling to badgers at a deare rate, and not ſerving the market: for mingling bad corne with the good, and fowle dreſſing of the beſt. For deceitfull plowing your neighbours ground, that hires you at a hard rate, which makes the poore man weepe at harueſt. Beſides many other countrie tricks which breed new caſes among old Lawyers, which I could argue vpon an houre together, if I were not preſently to go to the hall to moue in the Kings bench vpon an *eiectione firmæ*.

Mure. By lakin (Maſter *Granato*) you had been as good held your peace as buckl'd with a Lawyer. I ſweare he hath in few words touch'd you to the quicke, and done you no wrong neither in mine opinion: but wee will adiourne this diſputation vntill our next meering, and in the meane time prouide your ſelfe for a better defence.

Exeunt.

Act. V. Scen. II.

Intrat Proberio *&* Antonio *at ſeverall deores.*

Sir, Maſter *Eloe* and the Knight haue giuen me a copy of their accompt, and according to your charge, and their defence I haue drawen bill and anſwer. I haue ſhewed it them; they lik't it, and wiſhe it ſhould be ingroſſed, and put into the Court, they will depoſe the anſwere is true.

Anto. Is it ſo? well, giue me them. If I find them in that forwardneſſe I will take their word, and end it with kindnes. *Proberio*, you muſt remoue your trunkes and ſtuffe preſently. I will cleare my chambers from all men but my ſelfe.

Pro. What? iuſt ſo ſoone as I haue done all your buſineſſe muſt I be gone, you might haue ſuffered me vntill you goe out of towne, if then you will needes haue me remoue. You were wont to let me lye heere a weeke after, or as long as I needed. Mary now I finde the cauſe of that to be, that you had then ſome buſines for me to doe.

Anto. Yes; but I purpoſe to ſell my lodgings, and I muſt haue them out.

Pro. Where ſhall I lye this night, being ſodainely vnprouided? and whither ſhall I cary my ſtuffe?

Anto. You ſhall haue a bed at the Inne where my horſes ſtand. And your ſtuffe may be put in the out roome, neere the garden.

Pro. There they may be ſtollen; but I muſt bee content, (though not pleas'd) if there be no remedie.

Anto. You owe me ſixe pound; you muſt prouide it preſently, or els I will arreſt your ſureties.

Pro. That ſixe pound I doe not owe, although you got my bond for it by a verie hard and vndue courſe. And to this I will depoſe. And if I did, I hope you will not exact it, having received ſuch kindneſſe heretofore from me when I was able, and you in extreame neede thereof, and now doing

ing you ſo many ſervices.

Anto. Tell me nothing of that; you haue beene ſatisfied in your dyet and lodging to a better value.

Pro. In lodging? I am aſhamed to heare ſuch a word, (though you be not to alleage ſo baſe a reckoning) I had alwayes my owne ſheetes, except ſometimes when mine were finer, you would change with me for worſe. And the great dyet I had was ſometimes a piece of cheeſe, and one egge; for which benefites, I haue travailed like a Porter, & written like a Clarke. Is this your gratitude for good turnes paſt? and are all your promiſes thus performed?

Anto. How? gratitude? every begger talkes of gratitude. It is for ſuch as you to ſue for mercie, not to talke of gratitude, which is among equals.

Pro. Theſe were not your words to me, when you were a begger, and a borrower from mee, and had neede of the pooreſt helpe; but then you found no begger of me, but your beſt friend. *Exit.*

Anto. A proper reckoning. This fellow lookes for recompence. Why, he had my countenance which made him many times reſpected. And I could yet be content to ſpeake for him, but doth he expect farther? why, the fellow knowes not the world. *Simplo*, tell him that if my word may doe him any good, he ſhall haue it: but if he loue his libertie, let him challenge no deeds at my hands. He never had more of me then my word for that he now claimeth. And doth hee thinke to build caſtles vpon my word? if he doe, they ſhall come downe apace. Now he is gone to remoue his ſtuffe, bid my Attourney take out execution againſt his ſuretie.

Simp. This is cold comfort for mee. Sir, you make mee halfe afraid, you will turne mee off at the worſt time of the yeare. I am not able to deſerue ſo well at your hands as he hath done, and yet ſo lightly regarded. That is verie hardly done.

Anto. Doſt thou feare turning off? it comes with a feare, and ends with a fever. Thou maiſt goe aſſoone as thou

wilt

wilt after him.

Simp. If it pleaſe you to giue me my 100l. I will take my leaue now.

Anto. Soft awhile, where is your witneſſe that I haue 100l. of yours? And if I had, thou wert content I ſhould vſe it as mine owne. But goe to, Ile pay thee. There was a knaue ranne away with 100l. of mine, Ile change with thee; ſeeke him out, take the monie, and hang him, that's intereſt.

Simp. (*turnes to the people.*) This is a poore helpe for my 100l. for all this Ile not leaue his ſervice vntil I get my 100l. or ſomewhat for it. I wood I had my land againe at a venture.

Exit Simplo.

Intrat Proberio.

Sir, I haue remoued my ſtuffe into your garden roome; but there it is not ſafe from robbing. And at your Inne I can haue no lodging. I muſt ſit by my ſtuffe all night.

Anto. It wilbe ſo much the ſafer.

Pro. I heare beſides that my ſuretie is in execution at your ſuite for the ſixe pound.

Anto. That may be. I cannot helpe it vnleſſe I be paide.

Pro. You know I owe you nothing of that money.

Anto. I know not that.

Pro. Will you haue my oath? *Anto.* No.

Pro. Will you referre it to friends? *Anto.* No.

Pro. To your owne brother? *Anto.* No.

Pro. I proteſt vpon my faith, no pennie of this monie is due. And yet to ſaue my ſuretie I offred a fine mewed *Goſſehauke*, which before good witneſſe you did accept, and cauſed me to keepe a whole Michaelmaſſe tearme in London: but at the end of that verie tearme vnknowne to mee, you ſneak'd out of towne leaving order to haue my ſuretie arreſted, and ſo followed, that now hee is in execution vpon that onelie ſuite. I ſay no more, but demand iudgment in this caſe.

Anto. *Proberio*, I haue done thee the grace to heare thee to the full. And it ioies me much, that either he ſhall die in priſon,

priſon, or I ſhall haue that monie. *Exit.*

Pro. Was there euer any ſo hard harted? Twentie yeares paſt, when I was in proſperitie, and he at point of death, by rigour of Law, I tooke many coſtly iourney to Court, labouring for his pardon. I did him all the good offices that a true friend could doe for another. And I left nothing vndone that might doe him good. Beſides, I lent him 50l. *gratis* in thoſe times, my ſelfe paying *intereſt* for that money. At which time what vowes and promiſes he made me, I let paſſe, as ingratefull to my heart in repeating, and ſerue to no other purpoſe but for a warning, and a wōder that ſo much ingratitude ſhould harbour in an Engliſh man. And now you are all witneſſes of my reward. *Exit.*

ACT. 5. SCEN. 3.

Enter Mureto, Granato, *and* Malingua.

Now *Granato*, if you be content to yeeld the victorie vn- to Maſter *Malingua* this Lawyer, and confeſſe to haue wronged vs merchants with the petulancie of your prating; you may perhaps haue your puniſhment extenuated if wee be your Iudges, and ſo quietly ſhut vp all among our ſelues.

Gra. I am ſo farre from any ſuch confeſſion and ſubmiſſion, that I offer to maintaine euery word ſpoken in our laſt contention. And for iudgement I appeale from you both; and know that I am your ancient from the time that *Adam* digged the earth for his liuing.

Mali. Then purge your ſelfe *Granato* from the crimes we charg'd you withall: and the end will trye if you had not done better ro take penance for your faults at our hands.

Gra. For the high prices of corne (which falſely and abſurdly you impute vnto husbandmen) if you had either wit or honeſtie you would ſoone graunt that there are two maine reaſons for it, which lye not in our power to redreſſe, but in the States wiſdome to helpe. One is, the vncontrol-

led and improvident libertie for all ſorts & degrees to marrie, ſo that many are grand-mothers at 30 yeares old. The other is the multitude of Incloſures and decay of tillage. And if we corne-men did not till all the ground we can get; how deare (thinke you) would corne bee ſhortly? Many other Reaſons for brevity ſake I omit, but theſe will hold argument againſt you for tearme of both your liues, and after your deceaſe to your heires males lawfully begotten.

Mali. Beleeue me Maſter *Mureto*, this Farmer hath made for himſelfe a reaſonable good *Apologie*, and put vs a hard caſe. It ſeemes he hath ſtudied well ſince our laſt parle. But what ſay you *Granato* to your euill words lauiſh'd out againſt Lawyers? therefore you muſt yet craue pardon.

Gra. Not I truly. For I gaue you no worſe ſpeeches then you giue one another at the barre, nor ſo euill. For there you fall out like any skoulds: but the worſt is, you wilbe friends at dinner, yet neuer in charity I thinke. And I ſee no reaſon I ſhould ſtoope to either of you, conſidering the goodnes of my cauſe. For I wilbe iudg'd by any indifferent man, if I, and ſuch as I am, be not honeſter and better then both your factions.

Mali. Since thou haſt offred it, thou ſhalt not eſcape vntill that be tryed. Heere ſit a couple that ſeeme very wiſe by their ſilence, weele bee iudg'd by them. What ſay you *Mureto*?

Mure. With all my heart. For wee can not bee worſe then we are howſoeuer we ſpeede.

Gra. A match. Ile refuſe no mans opinion that is not of your rankes.

Mali. Gentlemen We need not report the cauſes of our reference vnto you. All our iarres, and wrangles you haue heard. We intreate you to finiſh them with your doome.

Seem. To deale plainely with you all, mine opinion is, that the world is generally more wronged and abuſed by the Lawyer and merchant, then by the Farmer, who though he

he haue faults, yet gets he his liuing more honestly, and is of necessitie to be harboured. But Sir *Hermite* I must referre the full decision of their cause to your censure.

Her. That one of them is better then the other, I doe not see; therefore me thinkes the question should rather be which is the worst. The Farmer that deceiues so farre as his capacity will carry him, is condemned by his intention to doe worse if his skill did enable him.

The Lawyer is a necessary member of the commonwelth to finde and determine everie mans right. But if willingly he oppugne right, and be enemie to peace; he is the *Diuels agent*, and Christs enemie.

Likewise a merchant which causeth commerce and amitie betweene severed nations is a man commendable. But if he vse fraud, then is he pestiferous, and deserueth banishment where no societie is.

Malingna, Mureto, and Granato, make obeysance vnto Securus and Hermito, and turning together, say.

Mure. I told you Master *Malingna*, we could not lose by the bargaine. Now the Farmer is as bad as we. What say you *Granato* to this geare?

Gra. I say litle. Why? I can be content to bee as dishonest as you. I am not proud of my honestie, nor doe I loue to be singular.

Mali. But now thou seest we may be as honest as you, if we will our selues.

Gra. Who denies that? I stand not much vpon that neither.

Mali. But hath this Hermites preaching done thee no good? canst thou be content to mend if we doe so too?

Gra. Yes, with all my heart. And Ile bee good before both you if you mend not the faster.

Mure. Content. Let vs all amend: for I thinke in my conscience it is euen high time.

Mali. All our hands wee will ioyne together in manner of a vow that it shalbe so. *Exeunt omnes.*

ACT. 5. SCEN. 4.

Enter Proberio, *bringing a cloth, wherein is pictured an Vsurer bare-headed with a purse in his left hand, on the out-side of which purse is set this inscription:* 30. p. pro 100. *And behinde him the picture of the Divell, with his armes strip'd vp, and white halfe-way, like the hangmans shirt sleeues, putting on a halter about the Vsurers necke, and shewing it to the people, sayth,*

Now, could I meete my merchant *Noverindo*, I haue heere a whole library for his learning. Heere he may studie while he spend his heart-blood with struggling, yet neuer reach the depth with his petitoes. *He rowles it vp againe.*

Enter Noverindo.

How long I thinke vntill I meete *Noverindo*. All is readie at our office, but the *Blazonrie* of our coate of *Armes* to be set vp, and for want of that we lose many howres. For there be store of suitors without, that thinke long to seale they care not what. But wee will not open the doore vntill wee furnish it with that gashefull spectacle to affront them. Yet time is pretious with vs, who must accompt to an howre, els Ile not giue a fart for a monie-monger that shall lose a minute negligently.

Pro. This catiffe is carefull of losing time in his wrath-heaping gaine; but that this time be well spent, he takes no care at all. Well Sir, you shall not complaine of me for keeping you too long from the Divell, the sooner you goe, the better for the countrie you liue in. *Noverindo*: why fret you your selfe? I haue more neede to bee chollericke for staying here this howre, waiting your leisure, while I might haue gotten 20l. by other imployments.

Nove. I crie you mercie Master *Proberio*. I am sorrie for that. And I thought you had not dispatch'd our busines. I pray you let me see it. All our occasions are at a stand vntil it

it come, for it muſt be ſet vp before any be admitted thither, or els the world will thinke it to be a new deuiſed trick, and not appendant to our corporation.

Pro. None but fooles will thinke ſo when they view it well, they ſhalbe taught to acknowledge that it was due to you long ſince, euen from your firſt denomination.

Nove. Well ſaid *Proberio*, ſo would I haue it appeare indeed. Vnfould, let me ſee it quickly. I am with childe till I ſee it.

Pro. With childe? with the Divell you are. But ſoft Sir, is there no more in the caſe then you make ſhew of? what preſently ſee it, and haue it, and ſet it vp?

Nove. No. Why ſhould there be any more circumſtances vſed? is it not ours, and belongs to vs onely?

Pro. But Sir, haue you forgotten my two pieces you promi'd mee vpon finiſhing the buſines? I warrant you I haue deſerv'd it, you neede not grudge me.

Nove. If I like it, I will performe your two pieces. Will you not truſt me for 44. ſhillings?

Pro. Why ſhould you aske me ſuch a queſtion? Is there any man in Chriſtendome or in Kent, that you will truſt for 40. ſhillings without good ſecuritie?

Nove. No. But you haue good ſecuritie: for you haue the thing it ſelfe in your hand, which you may keepe.

Pro. Yes, I haue, and will keepe you from ſight of it vntill I haue my money. For what can I tell? you may be ſo ouer-ioyed with the ſight, that you may runne madde vpon it. And then what guardian of yours while you liue, or adminiſtrator when you die will pay me 44. ſhillings, eſpecially being due for a thing that put you out of your wittes? Therefore ſatisfie your ſelfe, you ſhal not ſee it vntill I haue euerie pennie of my money.

Nove. How ſhall I know that it is done when I haue pay'd you?

Pro. Euen as I know that you will pay me 100. when I and my ſureties haue ſeal'd the bond to your vſe before I

receiue a pennie.

Neve. You ſay well. Come, heere is your money.

Pro. Now you ſhall ſee it. *(Then he ſets it vp with ſome deuice vpon a ſtaffe, that with turning it all the ſpectators may view it, and ſaith)* Looke heere Sir, heere's roddes in piſſe for the villaines.

Nov. Neverinda lookes earneſtly vpon it a long time, and then fetching a great ſigh, ſaith. What Tiburniſt is this? And what's the myſterie of all this picture?

Pro. Sir, this Tiburn it, or hangman is the Divell. And this fellow that hath the purſe is Iudas, the figure of 30 with *p* ioin'd to it ſignifies 30 pence, for which he ſold his maſter. That which followeth is meant of Chriſt, worth a hundred worlds: for which fact the Divell put a halter about his neck and hang'd him. So ſhortly this is the ſumme of all.

Iudas who for 30d ſould Chriſt infinitely greateſt
Was hanged by the Divells helpe, and reputed with the baſeſt.
Before you ſaw the hiſtory,
Now you heare the myſtery.

Nov. Tis a good expoſition. But I wood I had my two peeces againe. I doe not like it very well, for manie ignorant people will take it farre otherwiſe: as thus, 30. p. 30l. for a hundreth. And he that taketh 30l in the 100. is to be hangd by the Divell.

Pro. Tis true, manie may thinke ſo: but your Clarks muſt informe them in the ſenſe. No man can put a ſecret in figures but it may be diverſly interpreted. And ſo be all oracles taken in ſundry ſences.

Nov. But I wiſh it were made plainer to the vnderſtanding: for the more part will take it as I did at firſt ſight.

Pro. Why ſhould you thinke ſo?

Nov. Becauſe I cannot imagine any other meaning ſo proper to thoſe figures as that I conceaued.

Pro. That's becauſe you are parcell guiltie. But I will gather two other conceits as proper as that of yours.

Nov. If you can doe ſo I am ſatisfied.

Pro.

Pro. Thus 30 pro 100. that is, hee that giues 30 in the 100 is worthie to be hanged.

Nov. That iudgement is very preiudiciall for vs, & may force from vs many Clients.

Pro. I doe but geſſe at this for varietie ſake. And then another is this. 30 in the 100. hee that will not giue 30 in the 100 is worthie to be hanged.

Nov. O this; this none like to this. Now I like this riddle excellent well that yeelds ſo manie, & ſo wittie cõſtructiõs.

Pro. Nay here one more comes flowing in. I tell you tis a verie copious theame. I could keepe you here this houre with voluntarie varietie. I remember them as faſt as they come into my braines by huddles. 30 in the 100. and the hangman by: that is, he that will not giue 30 in the 100. ſhall bee hang'd before he get anie monie there.

Nov. And ſo he ſhall I warrant him. This is as good or rather better then the other. I commend thee *Proberie.* either of theſe will ſerue our turne.

Here, thou ſhalt haue one peece more. Ile bee bigger to thee then my word. Thou wilt make all our worſhips harts merrie with this device.

Pro. I thanke you Sir. And if you knew with what alacritie, and willingneſſe I went about it, you would thinke it well beſtowed. *Exit Nover.* Let him goe, he carries his owne rodde. No man that hath his ſences will coniecture otherwiſe then himſelfe did at firſt. *videlicet.*

He that takes 30 in the 100 and not a peny vnder,
Is worthy to be pendent till the hemp cracke aſunder. Exit.

Act. V. Scen. V.

Enter Antonio *and* Simplo.

I bad you goe to M. Thompſon for my rent, haue you brought it.

Simp. Sir, he hath ſent your rent all but 30 ſhillings which he

he abated for 80 caudles at 4d the caudle.

Ant. What an aſſe art thou? I ſent thee for my rent, not to paie for caudles.

Sim. Why ſir, he deducted it, then how could I helpe it? it were a great ſhame not to paie for your diet in the accoũt.

Ant. You ſhould haue left the imputation to me.

Sim. So I did nevertheleſſe: but for my credit ſake that fetched them every morning I thought reaſon to diſcharge your ſcore.

Ant. Score? what ſcore? is my hand at it? or did you keepe a tallie?

Sim. I kept no tallie but he is a verie honeſt man, & his wife chalked them vp behind the dore.

Ant. I am as honeſt as they. but yet I never vſe to keepe reckning of caudles when they be eaten halfe a yeare before and the taſte waſhed from my throat. If hee cannot afford his Landlord 100. caudles without monie, he is no Tenant for me. What; no leſſe then 30 ſhillings in caudles taken out of my rent at a clap, who did euer heare of the like? And the price too is monſtrous; groates apeece? why, it were enough for a ſupper at my chamber. Indeed they were very ſweet and good, but what of that? a man may buy gould too deare. Tell him from me, I will not allow him a penie for caudles, and yet I will haue my rent.

Simp. Sir, there ſtands a poore gentlewoman called Miſtris *Richardſon* at the doore, and deſires to ſpeak with you.

Anto. A poore woman, what haue I to doe with poore folkes? bid her come in, ſhe ſhalbe neuer the richer for me.

Exit Simplo.

Intrat Suſanna Richardſon, *makes curſie with a paper in her hand, and a ſeale to it, ſaith,*

Sir, a kinſman of yours and mine, a knight, when he went to travaile had no money to ſpare, but beſtowed on me 10l which you owe him by this your bill. I beſeech you to pay me, for now I am in want.

Anto. Let me ſee the bill. If it be mine I will diſcharge

it

lt. *She giues him the bill, and after well viewing, he teares off the ſeale, and ſaith,* I owe him nothing, nor will pay thee any thing.

Suſan. Why doe you teare the bill? if you will not pay it,

Anto. Did not you ſay it was my bill? if it be mine, why may not I doe with it as I liſt my ſelfe?

Suſan. But you promiſed to diſcharge it; and doing ſo, it is at your pleaſure to teare or burne it.

Anto. Haue I not diſcharg'd it thinkſt thou? I warrant thee tis ſure enough for euer charging me againe.

Suſa. *O heauens!* was there euer ſuch a monſter hatch'd? what age but this could haue foſtered ſo degenerous, ſo ſhameleſſe, ſo frontleſſe a beaſt as thou art? It had beene happie for manie that haue had to do with thee if that *Skiuer* this had beene flead from that impudent face of thine.

Anto. Be gone; Thy tongue is left thee to raile at large, but thy meanes be ſhort to reuenge thy ſelfe by law. Therefore feede vpon thy woes, and teares, money thou getteſt none of me. *Exit Anto.*

Exit Suſanna *a contrary way wringing her hands.*

Act. VI. Scen. I.

Enter Furioſo *the ſouldier, with his company* Corraſo *the Intelligencer, and* Phantaſtico *the Muſician.*

Courage my companions. Plucke vp your hearts, mee thinkes I heare the ſound of *trumpets* and *drummes* within my breſt. Whether I wake or ſleepe nothing but *Alarums* beſet my thoughts: warres cannot be farre off. Euerie thing prognoſticates ſtirres and broiles. The verie children muſter in the ſtreetes. We haue liu'd a great while like *metamorphiſed* men. It is ſuch a ſight for ſouldiers to walke in Pawles with long cloakes and graue attire as if they were turn'd *Civilians*. Whie ſhould we alter our proper habits

being enſignes of honour? Hath not the whole need of vs by turnes, and fits? And to one place or other we are ſtill inuited. VVe ſuccour the beſieged, and relieue the diſtreſſed. VVe reſtore kingdomes, and ſet captiues at freedome. VVe toſſe and tennis Crownes and Monarchies, & beſtow them at pleaſure. Finallie we make the earth tremble, and diſcolour the running ſtreames.

Some few faults we haue, but not worthie to be ſo generallie condemned.

Corra. The life of a ſouldier as now adaies it is vſed, is of all occupations the worſt: and in a word is the high way to Hell.

Furio. You need not bend your ſelfe ſo ſtifly againſt anie ſorts of people, be they neuer ſo wicked, being your ſelf one of the baſeſt and moſt vnneceſſarie *fruitſpillers* that euer made themſelues mercenarie. *An Intelligencer, a Spie, an Eueſdropper* is hated, and ſhunned of all the world.

Corra. As true as I liue, it were a good deed to apprehend you. Ile laie my life you are an enemie to the ſtate.

Furio. Yes to your ſtate, doe you kicke alreadie? nay Ile gale you better yet. with thy borrowed braverie thou perkeſt, and inſinuateſt thy ſelfe into the beſt companie, & vndermineſt their thoughts with thy laviſh and warranted impeaching of ſtates proceedings. And if anie perhaps ſecond thee in thy fained murmurings him thou purſueſt, and becomeſt firſt his animater, and then his accuſer. ſuch a one was D. *Pary* vntill the ſnare hee laid for others compaſſed his owne necke.

Corra. Sir, you doe vs vnſufferable iniurie: we are buſied onlie in our Countries ſervice, and certifie all things offenſiue to it.

Furio. Thats the intent of your miſſion, and cauſe of your entertainement. But you (to ſeeme diligent) attend manie times to bables and toies, and the better to packe awaie paper you ſend your owne ſurmiſes when waighrier affaires either happen not, or eſcape you. And ſo leaſt you

ſeeme

ſeeme to neglect your ſervice, you returne trifles.

Phan. For anie thing I ſee you are both pernicious mẽbers, and never to bee nouriſhed but in caſes of neceſſitie. We Muſitians are fortunate who hurt none, and covet to pleaſe none. We driue away melancholie, We recreate the mind, and reviue the benummed ſpirits, and are welcome to all ſorts. Such ſouldiers as you are *Segnieur Furioſo* I make no more account of, then of ſo manie fowle thiſtles in a medowe at Midſommer, whoſe heads everie child will whipp off with a wand. And I will haue a ſtill, plaine, temperate lad ſhall breake thy bones with his blow, when ſuch *ayre beaters* will ſcarce peirce the skinne. I will my ſelfe bee one of the ſix Muſitians that with the helpe of a few vnarmed ſillie folkes ſhall kill 100 ſuch ſouldiers in an houre: and yet we Muſitians will haue no weapons but inſtruments of muſick.

Furio. How ſhall this come to paſſe, I deſire to heare for my learning?

Phan. Thus. I will aſſemble a few faire women as honeſt as I would haue them, and wine enough. You ſhall haue your bellies full of all your deſires. They ſhall daunce you faint, and kiſſe you wearie. And when you cannot feele a needle thruſt through your noſes they ſhal cut your throats with eaſe. And we muſicall mates will celebrate your *Infernalls* with bells vpon our fiddles.

Now with you Sir *necke vpper*, or M. *Corraſo* (if ſo you be ſtiled) I will be briefe. While you doe your prince and countrie good ſervice, I wiſh you rewarded: but the firſt time you be trecherous you ſhould be well guarded.

Furio. What now fooliſh fidler, doſt thou thinke freely to carie awaie theſe exorbitant and opprobrious tearmes? Ile haue thee baniſht all howſes of my acquaintance. It is not long ſince you were teaching the lute to a pretie wench and wittie, and were fingring her frets vnfit for your dittie. Its beſt for you to be quiet, leaſt I tel the reſt which I know.

Secu. Sir *Hermito*. If you bee not, I am wearie with hearing ſuch varietie of vice. The *ſouldier* that was wont to bee

the honour of everie countrie he came in, and a glorie of his owne, is now become odious abroad, and intollerable at home. The intelligencer might doe good ſervice if you could deviſe to keepe him from doing hurt, which is as hard as to reſtraine a man of warre hauing letters of Mart from robbing his owne countrie men.

The Muſician that ought to preſent nothing euill ſounding, is now the ſetter of all vnſauerie ſonnets. His office was to teach the meaſures and daunces of order and comelines, not the loftie *Levalto* and tricks of Intemperance.

Her. I aſſure you Maſter *Securus* thoſe things are as diſtaſtefull to me as to anie other. And I am ſo much the ſafer that I liue from their ſight and knowledge. The Souldier, the Spie, and the Muſician haue their ſeverall abuſes much degenerating from their firſt inſtitutions; if anie man can perſwade them to repaire vnto my *cell*, I will doe my beſt to reforme them. *Exeunt* Furio, Corraſo. *and* Phantaſtico, *doing reverence to* Securus *and* Hermito.

ACT. VI. SCEN. II.

Enter Antonio *and* Simplo *at ſeverall dores, ſtamping, chaſing and throwing downe his hat.*

How now *Simplo*, what's the newes now?

Simp. Marrie I was never in ſuch a ſcurvie caſe in my life.

Ant. What is it? haſt thou the pox?

Simp. No, tis worſe. that's but a toy, tis the plague. I am ſo peſtred with yonder woman *Suſanna Richardſon*. She ſaies you did teare her bill of 10l. ſhe ſcoulds, ſhe railes; ſhe threatens to dwell with you, to lay her child at your doore, and ſet vp the cauſe vpon your gate: and everie thing ſhee will doe vntill ſhe be agreed withall. She makes me wearie of my life: ſhe followes me like a ghoſt: and now ſhe ſtands at dore. If you had not beene heere ſhee had neuer left mee, but ſhe cannot abide to ſee you.

Ant.

Anto. All this I little care for; but there's a thing in it. I feare the *Star-chamber* becauſe ſhee hath witnes (or els I would not care neither) I muſt agree with her, bid her come in.

Enter Suſanna, *makes curſie.*

You ſhewed me an old rotten note tother day. Tis not worth two pence. What would you haue? I owe you nothing.

Suſ. The note was worth 10l till you fingred it, now tis not worth a halfe-penie indeed: but if you will giue me nothing, I will tell the King. I am a poore widow, he will help me.

Anto. The King woman? Alas, he hath great buſineſſe, neuer trouble him with this toy. Ile giue thee ſomewhat in charitie, but not a penie of duetie.

Suſ. Charitie? that would I faine ſee from you. Pay firſt the 10l which is due, and then beſtow your charitie.

Anto. Well, woman, heere is 50 ſhillings with a good will: take this, or get more anie way you can.

Suſ. I ſhould haue had an ounce, heere is but a quarter. I am poore, therefore I am conſtrained to take this, but I leaue the reſt vpon your conſcience ſtill. *Exit.*

Anto. Nay, then I care not, wee'l doe well enough with conſcience *Simplo*. I am glad tis at an end in Law.

Simp. So am I Sir, now I ſhall bee quiet. An you mark'd Sir, I neuer intreated you for conſcience ſake to giue her a penie thing, but for my trouble. Nay I haue learn'd to ſtretch a conſcience with any man ſince I came to you. And tis ſoone learn'd if a man will giue his mind to it: for the good will of a jade is all. What a foole was I that began no ſooner to ſtudie it?

But I haue more newes to tell you Sir. As I came by the Chancetie office I was call'd in to ſee a verie foule bill, put in againſt you at M. *Thompſons* ſuit, for things which you did take (not altogether ſcale) out of his houſe. And for a leaſe parell hee challengeth from you: and there are alſo

your foureſcore and ten cawdles in a rowe: in everie line a Cawdle, ſpic'd, and ſweet, & as hot as ever they went down your throat: and ſome ſaie they ſhall be ſtill vpon record *in perpetuam rei memoriam*, if it bee true, it ſhall goe hard but everie morning in tearme times as long as I liue Ile ſpend my penie at one of them.

Ant. Hath he ſeru'd me ſo? well, tis a maxime with mee *Simplo* to be aſham'd of nothing (as thou knoweſt) but yet Ile be even with him. He ſhall out of his houſe whatſoeuer it coſt me.

Simplo. There is alſo another bill againſt you by your wiues neere coſen, wherein you are charged (not onely with ſtealing, but taking without the owners priuitie or cõſent) a picture, a map, and other houſhold ſtuffe.

Ant. I make no more reckning of that impuration then of the reſt. For if the worſt fall I ſhall haue them as they bee praiſed.

Sim. Nay, if you care not for the manner of taking thẽ, the matter is not great otherwiſe.

Ant. Not a ruſh *Simplo*, ſaie and thinke what they will, I am ſorie I tooke no more.

Sim. But one thing made me laugh hartelie, and in my conceit it was a wittie tricke that was told me latelie, that you bortowed 100l of a gentlewoman called *Miſtris Ferrers Gratis*, and put it out for 10 in the 100. And after a yeare and a halfe with much adoe paid her: and ſo you got 15l handſomelie. I would I could tell where to borrow two or three 1000l in that ſort. Me thinks I haue wit enough to thriue on this faſhion.

Ant. Tis a fine way indeed, and cleanelie (ſo that a mã looke to his ſecuritie) And comes in without ſtocke of his owne: a verie begger may grow rich thus: and everie paultrie knaue may thriue ſo, if he take heed. Millers vſe this tricke to lend a buſhell of another mans corne ground into meale to be paid againe in wheate, ſo he takes tole twice of one buſhell, and no coſt of his owne. It is but making the

firſt

firſt buſhels owner lay ſo much the longer.

Sim. There are yet two other things obiected, but both of our nature therefore though it were a huddle, it makes but a ſingle game. One was this that you picked the firſt letter out of a truncke ful of linnen, (the letter for the ſurname ſeruing your name as well as the owners you let ſtand) and put on A, inſteed of R. which was picked out. And this was Mr *Rellps* linnen. The other was that you marked pillowes, and other ſtuffe of a noble mans with your own marke, and vſed them as your owne. I forgot the noble mans name but it ſounds like a port towne toward the ſunne when it is at the higheſt. They had much of their ſtuffe againe, but ſome ſtucke in your fingers. And reaſon too I thinke: ſhall a man take paines to marke another mans goods for nothing? A halter for him that hath no better wit then ſo, to thriue by.

Ant. There was ſuch a ſpeech of this marking, but I denie it.

Sim. And what then? will that ſerue the turne?

Ant. It muſt ſerue. for they ſhall never proue directly that I did or cauſd it to be done.

Sim. But they were found in your poſſeſſion. and then how can you avoid the diſcredit?

Ant. Diſcredit? they may bee glad to haue their things againe. who can tell but they be mine? I am ſure they haue my marke. And how ſhall a man know his owne but by his marke? And howſoever theſe things are, time will weare them out of memorie.

Sim. All theſe are well anſwered. What ſaie you Sir to the taking of a conueiance out of a painted boxe in your father in Iawes ſtudie, by meanes of a keye with pretence of another buſineſſe?

Ant. Tuſh. I laid it there againe when I ſaw they kept ſuch a ſtirre about a paultrie peece of parchment. I will not be beholding to them.

Sim. What an vnkindneſſe was that, that your father in law did threaten to ſue you for 700l. you owed him? Alas

Sir

Sir I ſee you haue beene much wronged among them. Hang ſuch a father.

Ant. I but I dealt well enough with him: for I ſent him word that if he did ſue me I would bring him in more trouble then twice ſo much monie could excuſe him for other matters.

Sim. And reaſon too I thinke. ſhal they make a man pay monie before he be willing? twood make a man doe that awood not, when they goe to extremities. I haue done for this time Sir, the next time you call for newes I hope i ſhall haue as much more. But now I remember mee there is one thing more. Your lawyer asked mee for a fee for your laſt buſineſſe: ſhall I giue it him?

Ant. No. I am ſure he did not aske you. I brought a coſen of mine tother day to him that gaue him a fee. Indeed I told him that he ſhould goe to my lawyer and giue him no fee. But when I had him there, and he put his caſe, I whiſper'd my coſen in the eare to offer him a fee: But I did not whiſper my lawyer to refuſe it. and ſo verie honeſtlie hee tooke it: and I knowe therefore hee will expect no fee for my owne buſineſſe.

Sim. Then belike I miſtooke it. perchance hee thank'd you for bringing your coſen to giue him a fee without cauſe, being well reſolved before by other Councell. Well now Sir I hope you will beſtow my freedome vpon me, I deſire no more cunning then now I haue, and Ile ſerue you ſtill, and ſet vp for my ſelfe: for I had rather bee a double knaue then a ſingle foole.

Ant. I will not ſtick with thee *Simple*: go to the Chamberlaine there it muſt be done. *Exeunt. Ant. & Simp.*

ACT. 6. SCEN. 3.

Enter Inſatiato *and Infelicia.*

What ſaiſt thou boy? mee thought wee had but a ſhort dinner to daie with yonder daintie Ladie and taried ſo long

for

for it. How fat'd you in the hall?

Inſa. We had verie ſhort commons. and I am hungrie ſtill: we had no meat but your revertion, and the ſcraps of your trencher when I changed with you.

Inſa. Alas, we left nothing but bare bones. wee had but a quarter of a necke of mutton betweene three, and *Paragraco* and I eate no meat nor bread ſince yeſternight at 10 a clocke: and from my trencher thou couldſt get little but the fat ſquiz'd from the fleſh which I eat. I was ſo hungrie that me thought I could haue eaten that ſmal Ladie, and her great cheere all at a meale. Here goe thou to dinner at ſome ordinary (*he puts his hand in his pocket but finds nothing there*) ſtaie till I haue monie: thou canſt faſt a litle, canſt thou not?

Inſa. Yes a little, if I can get no meate.

Intrat Peſtifero.

Inſa. Yonder comes *Peſtifero* my brother. He could neuer haue come in a better time: for I haue neither monie nor clothes to pawne: but boy not a word of our wants: weele ſeeme to be verie flush: the offer ſhall come from himſelfe, elſe we ſhall haue him verie coye and deere.

Peſt. By your favour Sir I am bold to ſee as you doe. I heard you were evill (*he ſnites his noſe*) at eaſe with melancholie.

Inſa. Welcome *Peſtifero*: indeed I haue beene a little troubled in minde, but now I am verie merrie.

Peſt. In good time Sir, I am glad of your worſhips amendment. I doubted leaſt you lack't monie, and were ſad vpon it. I came to pleaſure you, if that had beene your diſeaſe.

Inſa. Thanks for thy good will *Peſtifero*: but I am prettilie ſtored at this inſtant: I knowe not how ſoone I ſhall want, for all things are vncertaine in this world.

Peſtif. Verie true Sir, manie changes in this age. wilt pleaſe you then to make proviſion againſt a rainie daie, and take this while it may be had?

Inſa. I, but then you knowe intereſt will runne on. it is no good husbandrie to take it ſo long before the time. it

may be I ſhall not need it this ſeauen night yet.

Peſt. Way Sir, if you bee ſo prouident that you reckon of weekes, it is time for me to be gone: I haue other frends to pleaſure, that ſcorne to ſtand vpon two months paſt before the ſealing, from the time of the firſt beſpeaking the commoditie reſting from them vntill their ſecuritie were prouided. Ile ſee you ſome other time.

Inſa. Nay ſtaie: I am not couetous. I hate it with my heart: if it may doe thee a kindneſſe I can be content to accept thy friendly offer, ſo thy commoditie bee vendible. I knowe thou comeſt in good will.

Peſt. If. Vendible Sir? yes that it is: and you will ſay ſo ſoone: no man will ſuffer it long in his houſe.

Inſa. What ſtuffe is it?

Peſt. Of diuerſe ſorts: I knowe not my ſelfe: but they are finelie pack't vp. I ſaw a car vnloading with ſuch ware euen now as I came, it is a commoditie more ſought for by daie and night then anie I knowe. I tell you it troubles the Lord *Maior*, and all the Iuſtices to keepe the people in order that gather theſe wares, they are ſo eager in catching at them.

Inſa. Of what value is the commoditie?

Peſt. You may haue 100^{l} worth, or halfe, as you pleaſe.

Inſa. What will 100^{l} worth yeeld to be ſold?

Peſt. At a word it will yeeld you 60^{l} readilie: Ile not diſſemble.

Inſa. What ſecuritie?

Peſt. Your ſelfe and your friend ſuch another.

Inſa. What ſaie you M. *Parvagracio*? you know him.

Peſt. I know him well I warrant you he ſhall be taken.

Inſa. What will content you.

Peſt. What you pleaſe Sir, 40 ſhillings, Ile not ingrate vpon you,

Inſa. Now let me caſt vp my accompt. 40^{l} loſt out of the principall at the firſt 10^{l} the intereſt. 40 ſhillings the broker. All this is but 5^{l} in the 100, tis reaſonable as the world goes

goes now: here is my hand. As I am a gentleman Ile haue it vpon theſe tearmes, ſo that the bargaine be no worſe then you ſpeake of, put the bands to making. Now tell me what call you the commoditie?

Peſt. The commoditie Sir, is old ragges, ſuch as are foũd in ſtreet dunghills with raking day and night as I told you.

Inſa. What a villaine art thou? old ragges? how durſt thou preſume to offer me old ragges?

Peſt. Why Sir, I tell you they are readie monie at the paper mille.

Inſa. Paper me no mills. Ile not foule my fingers with them.

Peſt. You ſhall not need Sir, I wil take order for ſelling them. and I hope you can abide to tell the monie when I bring it. I wood your worſhip had 1000l worth of them, as fil thie things as they be.

Inſa. So would I: but it ſhall never be ſaid for my credit ſake that I tooke vp a commoditie of old ragges or doublets. I haue heard of manie ſcurvie bargaines, but never the like to this.

Peſt. Why ſir, tis but your fancie. And now you cannot goe backe: here is witneſſe enough you engaged your honour to haue it, take the leſſe and ſaue your reputation.

Inſa. I did ſo indeed, the more foole I to paſſe my word before I felt their ſtinke. I cannot abide to thinke on them. But to ſaue my credit goe to, diſpatch. Ile haue the whole 100l ſince I muſt haue ſome. Ile never giue my bond for a li ttle.

Peſt. VVell ſir, it ſhall be done. *Exit Peſtif.*

Inſa. Now boy, was not this well handled? I muſt haue had them vpon any tearmes: but hee never perceiued it. Didſt thou marke how hee intreated mee with reſpectiue tearmes, and pinn'd the bargaine vpon me? Thoſe bee alwayes the beſt penie-worths. It is a goodly thing to bee wiſe. Remember boy when thou comeſt to yeeres, to take this courſe of thriving.

Infæ. Indeed Sir you carried this buſineſſe admirable to the end. I would rather then 40l for my minde ſake my old maſter your Worſhips father had ſtood in a corner, and had heard, and obſerued his ſonnes wiſdome. I warrant it had beene worth 1000l to ſome bodie.

Infæ. Well. Now wee want nothing for getting this threeſcore pound but *Parvagracia* to ſeale. Goe ſeeke him out, and weele be merrie.

Infæ. I goe fetch him. *Exeunt Infæ. & Infel.*

Secu. I thinke the aire is infected, that ſuch contagious *caterpillers* ſwarme abroad in this age to deſtroy youth, that ſcarſe one fruite among 100 comes to bee ripe but is firſt rotten. Such as this broker is are nouriſhed by the Divel for no cauſe but to waſte yong men in old priſons. And theſe *cormorants* which ſet them a-worke to entiſe youth to theſe peſtilent adventures, me thinkes they can haue no hope that he which receiues ſo litle monie vpon great bonds, doth euer meane to pay them. For he deales not with one of theſe gripers, but with as many as he can find wilbe content with his owne ſecuritie. Therefore when he comes to bee arreſted he is buried aliue for all, and payeth none.

Her. I wiſh they were all ſo ſerued. then the loſſe of the monie on the one ſide, and the ſharpe rod of impriſonment on the other ſide, would bring both ſorts to repentance, & bethinke themſelues of vſing a good conſcience to deceiue on neither part. But if your Chauncellour hold on his courſe in allowing the extortioner no more but the bare monie made of ſuch commodities that will ſhortlie end the abuſe. For this *Eſops* dog will learne to hold the next piece better, then to be deluded with a ſhadow of double gaine.

Act. VI. Scen. IV.

Enter Antonio, Simplo, Purgato *all booted.* Stercorato *the hoſtler.* Camerado *chamberlaine.*

Oſtler. Take heed to my horſes, that they bee well

walked, ſtuffed and dreſſed.

Stero. I warrant you Sir, and your Worſhip may haue prouender of all ſorts.

Came. Will it pleaſe you to ſee your chamber?

Anto. Yes, but I muſt haue the beſt in the houſe.

Came. You ſhall Sir. What wilt pleaſe your worſhip to haue to ſupper?

Anto. Firſt bring me a cruſtie manchet, and a ſingle pot of beere.

Came. It ſhalbe done Sir (*turnes to the people*) heere's a hongueſt I perceiue by the ſingle pot. *Exit.*

Simp. What will you haue to ſupper Sir, that wee may beſpeake it for we are verie hungrie?

Anto. It is not wiſedome to eate a meale when you are hungrie, for then you eate too much and ſurfeite. Euen as it is not good to fight or correct ſchollers when you are in choller, for then you will doe it beyond meaſure. I am as hungrie as you, yet I will eate but a manchet, and drinke twice of one pot.

Pur. What Sir? will you take vp the beſt chamber, and ſpend but two pence for your part. And this at *Croyden* ſo neere London?

Anto. No more. And but for the beſt chamber I would ſpend but a penie, a pint of beere and a halfe penie bread.

Pur. VVhat a ſhame were this if your friends ſhould heare it?

Anto. Leaue the diſgrace to me. I can beare it. *Paſſus graviora.*

Simp. Come *Purgato*, thou and I will beſpeake our ſupper. 20d a peece wee will ſpend to ſtoppe this current of rumour. *Exeunt.*

Intrat Camerado.

Here is a delicate manchet Sir. what meat to your ſupper?

Anto. This is not cruſtie enough. Change it.

Came. But we haue no better in the houſe.

Anto. I will haue it chang'd.

Came. Well Sir, I will doe my beſt. what ſhall my Miſtris prouide for your ſupper?

Anto. When thou haſt chang'd the manchet thou ſhalt know. *Exit* Camerado.

A long journey haue I ridden, and all day faſting, except a breake-faſt at my friends houſe. Now if I ſhould fill my bellie, two ſhillings will not ſerue in ſheere meate for mee and my two men. This way yet I ſaue ſomewhat: for theſe hungrie knaues out of their owne purſes ſpend three ſhillings two pence: for I will allow but pence a-peece. I hope they will not compare with mee to aske two pence a peece as I ſpend. O to morrow, to morrow at dinner will I carry in for feare of fowle weather, when I come to Maſter *Remraſ* his houſe, my continuall hoſt and friend, whom I cannot bauke, he is ſo conueniently in my way, and keepes good cheare. Oh, by that time my ſtomacke will be *tanquam ignis accenſus*, a flaming fire, diſpatching all meates it toucheth. And it is Phyſicke ſometimes to keepe a ſtomacke ſo fierie: for it will conſume the verie wormes if anie crawle vp to the ſtomacke for lacke of nutriment in the maw.

Intrat Camerado.

Sir, I haue beene with all the bakers in the towne for a cruſtie loafe.

Anto. Thou haſt done well, this is as it ſhould be.

Came. Now Sir, what to ſupper? my Miſtris ſtands at gaze vntill I tell her.

Anto. My friend, I haue a verie euill ſtomacke, it will endure nothing toward night but bread and drinke, my men I thinke wil haue ſomething.

Came. (*Turnes to the people, and ſaith*) Heere is a cuſtomer for Paltocks Inne, but weele nicke him well enough in his horſe-meate, and ſcurvie ſheetes. *Exit.*

Anto. I heare the knaue well enough, but Ile watch you for both. My horſes ſhall haue but little prouender. Ile call at ſome Farmers houſe to morrow, and eate a pecke in his ſtable, and for ſheetes Ile lay them by, and change with my men. *Exit.* ACT.

ACT. 6. SCEN. 4.

Intrat Inſatiato & Infælicto.

Sirra, haue you found *Parvagracio*? when will he come?

Infa. To tell you the naked truth Sir I haue beene aſleep till I heard you call for your *gelaſſhes*: for I was ſo hungrie, that if I had not ſlept I had committed *Burglary* ſomewhere to get victuals. Now Ile finde him out. (*hee ſteps forwards, and turnes againe, ſaying*) but I pray you Sir remember to giue mee my two ſhillings you promiſed mee for bringing newes of your dinner. Now you ſhall haue monie, I ſpeake before it bee gone.

Infa. Yes, and before it be come. why doſt thou tarrie? the Scrivener will thinke vs long; and a worſe matter; perhaps wee ſhall giue them too much time to enquire of our ſtates.

Infa. I can ſoone haue him if all other things were readie: you know where you left him at the Ladies, where you both dined. He ſaid he would follow you. I marvaile hee is ſo long. But I warrant they are vp to the noſes in the new booke *de fluxibus*. It is beſt for me to know if the bonds bee readie before I fetch him, leſt he be angrie to leaue the Ladies companie before needs require. *Intrat* Parvagracio. But looke where he is come alone without carying. Sir, you ſau'd me a labour. I was ſent for you. Can you ſmell out good bargaines? you come without calling. When thrift is in the market you are ever in the way?

Par. What good bargaine *cracke* is toward me?

Infa. My Maſter ſhall haue monie, and you muſt bee bound with him.

Par. Is that a good bargaine *wagge*? well, I haue ſuch an other a-bruing for your Maſter to bee bound with mee. but where is he?

Infa. Heere, at hand. Now to the ſcrivener and broker goe I. *Exit.*

Par.

Par. I am glad to heare of your good furniture toward, and I come to proſtrate my ſeale and ſervice at your worthy feete.

Inſati. Sir, with all complements for ſuch kinde loue, I receiue your readines. And doe reciprocally promiſe to be euer at your becke.

Intrat Infælicio.

Inſe. Sir, the bonds be readie for the ſeale. I haue ſeene the commoditie of ragges, and I like them well. They never duſtie you except they be ſtirr'd. But they are foule and heavy. I wood we had ſold them by gold ſmiths weight for ſo much in ſilver. I did ſee a fellow lift a bundle of them vp to a carre, and he grunted hard; he made me remember my Ladies booke *de ſtatibus*. For I look'd euer when hee would haue let flye.

Inſa. Well lets goe ſeale the bonds, and loſe no time.

ACT. 7. SCEN. 1.

Intrat Levitia *cum* Pediſequa. *her periwigs of dogges haire white, and a yellow band about her necke, a glaſſe, and powder of an old poſt in a boxe or paper. And is very buſie in trimming her ſelfe, and caſting duſt vpon her head vntill her time come to ſpeake.*

Inſatiato goes on ſaying, But what haue wee heere? Ile ſee this ſight for all the haſte.

Par. Why tis a woman. Doſt not ſee what it is?

Inſa. A woman? tis not a woman. The head is a dog. tis a *maremaide*, halfe a dog, halfe a woman.

Par. No tis but the haire of a dog in faſhion, pul'd from theſe Iſland dogges.

Inſa. In faſhion? there's a faſhion for a foole. What's that ſhe caſts vpon her head?

Par. That's the powder of a rotten poſt.

Inſa. A tale of a tub, the powder of a pudding: will you make me beleeue that?

Par.

Par. Doeſt thou thinke it ſo ſtrange? vpon my credite I know ſome are ſpoken to for providing ſuch powder by Ladies. I am in earneſt. I aſſure you tis verie common.

Inſa. I thinke they be common indeed that bee dreſſ'd with duſt. (*he goes prying on both ſides of her, ſaying*) not a dog ſay you? the head is a dog. The chiefeſt part is a dog. well, ſay what you will, you ſhall never make mee beleeue but it is either a dog or a dogged woman.

Par. Be ſhe what ſhe will in conditions, I warrant thee tis a woman in ſexe, or never truſt my iudgement againe.

Inſa. What's that about her neck? a pancake, or a tanzie?

Par. Tis a band yellow ſtarch'd. how canſt thou thinke it to be a tanzie?

Inſa. Becauſe it lookes ſo yellow. Marie it is not ſo well I wiſh it were, for then I would eat it vp, for I haue not halfe din'd.

Par. No. twere pitie to devoure her, me thinks tis a very pretie creature.

Inſa. Doſt thou like her ſo well? Ile goe wooe her: ſhee has no impediment, but I may marie her, may I not?

Par. Not that I knowe, except ſhe be honeſt.

Inſa. Is that an impediment? nay, the honeſter the better. Ile to her inſtantlie. I ſee no reaſon but I may fall in loue with her on the ſuddaine. And happie is that wooing that is not long in doing: but ſtay, are you ſure ſhe is a woman? I am in ſome doubt. And I would be verie loath to mary her except ſhe proue a woman.

Par. I warrant thee ſhee is a woman. why ſhouldſt thou feare it?

Inſa. Haue I not cauſe to feare it? for if I ſhould be maried to a beaſt, or a iade, I were vtterly vndone. is it not good to be ſure?

Par. Miſtruſt not that. thou maiſt knowe by her ſpeech and voice whether ſhe be a woman or no.

Inſa. Cannot her tongue deceaue me?

Par. Yes like enough, but not in this caſe. And if the

worſt fall you may eaſily knowe the firſt night you lie together.

Inſa. I thanke you for nothing when it is too late.

Par. VVhy too late? thou maiſt be rid of her preſently, and be parted the next day.

Inſa. I could like that well enough ſo that I had her portion, but is there ſuch a courſe to be taken, that they cannot be tied ſo faſt, but they may eaſilie be vndone?

Par. No queſtion but the mariage is void.

Inſa. That's an excellent tricke. I wiſh I had a grant vnder the great ſeale to vnmarrie all thoſe that would faine be parted. I would purchaſe Lordſhips, Townes, & Countries.

Par. If you had, yet muſt you vſe diſcretion in it, and devide none but ſuch as are indeed no marriages at firſt, but had impediments not diſpenſable. Otherwiſe you might be cauſe of great ſinne, and inconvenience. You muſt examine the reaſons, and proceed iudiciallie, before you ſever them raſhly.

Inſa. Never tell me, let them looke to that at their own perill. It would take vp too much time if there came to mee but 100 in a daie to examine them all. No, no, if they were willing to be ſundred, I would vncouple them: let them range afterward which waie they will for me. Well vpon thy word that I may be divorced from her if ſhe proue not a certaine woman Ile vpon her whatſoever ſhe be. And Ile catch her vpon a ſuddaine for feare leaſt it be a dog & bite me. *(he goes ſtealing towards her with his hands forward.*

Par. Awaie cocks-combe. I am aſham'd on thee: come backe, what doſt thou meane?

Inſa. O that ſame is a very ſuſpicious head. I am afraid of it.

Par. Afraid of a dead dogge? what a cowardly thing is that?

Inſa. A dead dogge? marrie perhaps the haire is vpon a curſter ſnapper then the right owner was.

Par. Be rul'd by me; Ile ſtand between thee and al dangers;

gers, go orderly to her, take her by the right hand as if thou wouldſt dance with he. *He daunceth toward her and ſingeth.*

Inſa. Hey niny, nony no. Hey niny no. Hey noniny nonino. Hey ninyno. So he daunces toward her.

Par. What a fellow art thou? a Courtier? a Cowdriuer, come hither once againe. Doſt thou thinke to ſpeed & goe about it ſo like a Clowne: Thou muſt wooe her, as you court your ladies in the pallace.

Inſa. O, muſt I ſo? I thought ſhe had beene a countrie gentlewoman, and that the more plainely I had dealt, the better ſhe would like me. But all is well enough yet, for no body ſaw me.

Par. Thou art deceiued in that: for they are as fine and curious as anie Ladie in Court, though they be not proud a whit.

Inſa. Is't ſo? well, then I can fit her, ſhe ſhall haue courting enough. And I am glad you tell me of it; for I was in earneſt to haue lou'd her beyond meaſure, & ſo might haue fallen mad, and marr'd all: but now Ile doe euen as wee doe at Court, make many ſhewes of loue and ſervice, and intend nothing leſſe. But yet thus honeſtlie Ile deale with this woman (becauſe ſhe is a ſtranger) that if I loue her, and like her, Ile loue her vntill I leaue her. Well, tis time to bee doing, for my loue begins to coole verie faſt: I muſt kindle it againe. *(with a conge he takes her by the left hand, ſaying)* Faire Lady, it becomes not gentlemen of good breeding to talke of the weather, or time of the day, or vſe ſuch idle impertinent ſpeech: therefore, (all preambles and digreſſions ſet aſide) I come to vnderſtand if you bee pleaſed to admit me into the liſt of your devoted ſervants.

Lev. Indeed Sir, it ſeemes you haue beene well bred, els you had never growen to this ſtature.

Inſa. (He turnes from her towards Parvagracio, *and ſaith)* Did not I tell you what I ſhould finde of her? ſhee ſnarles alreadie. Ile lay my life ſhe will proue curriſh, her looks make it plaine, come ſweet Ladie, what anſwere to my queſtion?

Lev. Nay firſt I had neede to anſwere your complaint to your friend, that I am ſo curſt and churliſh. What vncivill tearme did I giue, deſerving ſo ſharpe a cenſure? women know not how to ſpeake. If merily, then our jeſt is tearmed ſcoffing, and quipping. If ſoberly, then our modeſtie is counted coyneſſe, and want of curteſie. So that vnleſſe wee ſay nothing, we commit error. And yet ſilence is not cleere: for then are we ſheepe (*alias*) fooles.

Inſa. How could you heare what I ſaid to him, ſince I turn'd my mouth from you?

Lev. But you turn'd not mine eares from your mouth.

Inſa. Pardon this fault good Ladie. I will be more carefull heereafter.

Lev. No doubt you will: to haue mee further off when you ſay the worſt.

Inſa. I meane not ſo. but rather to ſpeake the beſt of you in all places and companies as your merites (I know) will enforce me.

Lev. Nothing comes from you (I ſee then) but by conſtraint.

Inſa. O that you would giue over rebuking, no man ſhall reforme himſelfe before me. Forgiue what is paſt. If I offend againe, deny me all favour.

Enter Peſtifero, *and whiſpers* Inſatiato, *to whom he ſaith*, Tell them I will come anon. *Exit* Peſtifero.

Lev. Sir, it is againſt nature to remit iniuries, therefore your requeſt is vnreaſonable. But for his ſake that gaue the counſell, I will forgiue my greateſt enemies: yet you muſt know it is lawfull to reprehend your miſdemeanours.

Inſa. (*Turnes from her towards* Parvagracio, *and ſaith*) This comforts me much, for ſhe may be a Chriſtian for anie thing I heare yet.

Lev. You that content your ſelfe with no habitation but a Princes Palace, and will ſerue no leſſe creature then *Ceſar*: that no ſooner paſſe the Porters lodge, but lift vp your legges and lips, as if you had commiſſion to controule

the

the countrie, to breathe nurture from your noſtrils, and be patrone to poore people: whoſe gate and geſture giue teſtimonie to your hearts haughtineſſe: and whoſe countenance muſt outface all encounterers, how could you bee ſo groſſely ouer-ſhot, as to caſt your ſelfe vnacquainted, vnfriended, vncommended, and vnpreſented into the companie of a gentlewoman of faſhion?

Inſa. I cry you mercie. Of what faſhion are you that I might not doe as I did without offence?

Lev. Why Sir? are you a courtier? and aske of what faſhion I am? doe you not ſee that I am of the neweſt, and neateſt faſhion? who ſees my band and perrywig, & doubts of that: I am perſwaded you will proue a counterfaite, and no courtier, that are ignorant in ſo generall a knowledge?

Inſa. It was not the neweſt faſhion the laſt yeare, and no Cronicle makes mention of it. Therefore if any man had written. *Nihil factum eſt quod non fuit factum prius.* I would haue giuen his *Proverbe* the lye. For this *ſaffroning* was never vſ'd but in Ireland for bodily linnen, to diſſipate the companie of creepers. And for ſuch torturing of theſe Izeland Impes, with eradicating their fleeces, therby to enioy the roots, which beſt will abide the baſting, it hath need to be new, for it is noyſome, and makes your *pretywig* nothing handſome.

Lev. Sir, let it ſuffiſe you that it is the neweſt faſhion this verie day. And if the ſight and ſmell of it offend your noſe, you know the ordinary remedie is to remoue your noſe. Yet I ſuppoſe by your paleneſſe you vſe to take Tabaccho, then which, nothing is more fulſome.

Inſa. Indeed, I want colour in my face, and wiſhe I had the art to get ſo roſie a cheeke as you haue.

Lev. You doe but gueſſe that I vſe art to giue grace to my feature, ſo it is eaſie for you to be deceiued: but I will tell you a certaine rule to know if anie woman be painted.

Inſa. Let me bee beholding to you for this cunning infallible.

Lev. If you ſuſpect it, take a pin, and ſcratch her cheeke pretie deepe to the bone, and if it bleed not, aſſure your ſelfe ſhe is painted.

Inſa. I ſee now you are diſpoſ'd to be pleaſant with me. I beare all kindly. Now I intreate you to proceede with publiſhing my other faults, that when I know them all, I may amend, and ſo appeare perfect in your ſight.

Lev. Secondly, I charge you with flatterie, at every word calling me *Ladie*: which you are verie ſure I am not, ſeeing me come hither on my owne feet, whereas if I were a *Lady* I muſt of neceſſitie be at my *Caroach* with 4 horſes, or els my honour is in the duſt in ſommer, and in the mire in winter. This then is an vnexcuſable ſinne of yours.

Inſa. Alas. what ſhould I call you not knowing your name? And you of all the women that euer I knew are angrie for giuing you more then your due. But rather then I will diſpleaſe you that way, I will deviſe ſome other *Epitheton* of curteſie, vntill you determine to take *Ladyſhip* vpon you, ſo well as it would become you.

Lev. Nay, I would not haue you thinke that I am exceedingly angrie for miſtaking my preſent condition. It was a fault, but verie veniall. Your other errours I will conceale for this time, as vnwilling to oppreſſe you with penance, ſithence I finde you ſo freely to offer ſatisfaction.

Inſa. Then now vouchſafe to receiue me into your ſeruice, ſithence no man ſhall carie himſelfe more dutifully.

Lev. If I were fit to receiue one of your ſort, how could you ſerue me and the king too? can you ſerue two maſters?

Inſa. No. but one maſter and a miſtreſſe may both bee ſerued without breach of fidelitie, and with great facilitie.

Lev. Verie hardly, reſpecting the perſons inequalities: but if I ſhould be ſo minded, what can you doe?

Inſa. All, that is not done before I come.

Lev. Can you, and will you doe whatſoever I entreate or command you without grudging?

Inſa. Yes, with all readines and alacritie, & without exception.

Lev.

Lev. Then I requeſt and command you to let me alone, and neuer heereafter ſpeake to me.

Inſa. That's an vnreaſonable requeſt, and iniuſt commandement. There ought to bee iuſtice and poſſibilitie in euerie commandement; but this hath neither of them.

Lev. I will proue it hath both, or els I releaſe your word.

Inſa. Proue that, and Ile performe your will: for I haue vowed to ſerue you, and it is iniuſtice to breake it. And I am in loue, and it is impoſſible to limite it.

Lev. I thought ſo. *draffe was your errant, but drinke you would haue.* you ſeeke a ſeruice, but you meane to be maſter: this tricke will faile you: for I haue vowed before-hand, and I am bound to keepe it.

Inſa. You can make no vow contrarie to mine, becauſe you neuer knew my intention, nor perſon before this day.

Lev. Yes, contrarie enough, as white is to blacke. And to hold you no longer in ſuſpence, my vow and purpoſe is to be a Nun.

Inſa. A Nun? There was neuer Nun with ſuch attire, and in ſuch a Cloiſter.

Lev. O Sir, I can quicklie caſt off this attire, and get a Nuns habite. If the mind be changed, the apparel will ſoone be altered.

Inſa. Of what order (if you ſpeake in earneſt) that I may viſit your Cloiſter? for loue hath gotten ſuch dominion, that I cannot ſo part with you. And yet to this croſſe I know not what to ſay: for it takes from me all libertie to mooue further.

Lev. What will it availe you to know my Cloiſter, and walke without the wall? for there, all acceſſe & entercourſe is barred.

Inſa. Let my loue yet bee ſo farre requited, as to know your name and order you enter into. It will eaſe my minde, that none other inioies you. O, this loue is like a quarterne ague, and a ſuite in Law! A good day, and a bad: now hope, then deſpair. To night cõfort, to morow morning all daſh'd.

Lev.

Lev. Sir I muſt craue reſpite to anſwere you directlie to theſe queſtions: for I muſt haue my friends advice before I reſolue. And ſo for this time I take leaue. *Exit Lev.*

Par. Now, let vs goe ſeale theſe bondes in the meane ſpace, and by that time perhaps ſhe will come againe.

Inſa. Bonds? I am in bonds enough I thinke, bound hand, foote, heart, minde, wit and will. Hee that is in loue needes no other chaine to hold him; he is faſt in priſon, and lock'd ſure enough for eſcaping. O *Parvagracio!* doſt thou talke of going? whither ſhould I goe? Is it not enough that my loue is gone, and that all is gone with her? my heart is gone with her, and ſhe is gone away with my heart: whither can I goe without my heart? And whither ſhe is gone, and whither ſhe hath caried my heart I know not. Sealing, what talkeſt thou of ſealing? I haue ſet my hand, my ſeale, my hare and all to the loue of her. She is gone away with this deed of gift. It is deliuered before witnes. It is enroll'd. I haue acknowledged a fine. I haue ſuffered her to recouer againſt me; and deliuered her peaceable poſſeſſion. The Law is at an end, what els would you haue me ſeale? I can giue her no further aſſurance, her counſaile cannot deviſe it, why do you trouble me with vnneceſſarie requeſts?

Par. O my good friend *Inſatiato* recall thy ſelfe like a wiſe man, thou ſpeakeſt like a man diſtracted. goe with me, and take a litle reſt. It will not be long before ſhee come to this place againe. We will ſend your Page to find her.

Inſa. A little reſt I warrant you. Goe? you are ſtill vpon going. Goe whither you will, I will not ſtirre a foote from hence. What if ſhe come in our abſence, and goe away diſcontented? then ſhall I neuer ſee nor heare her againe. No heere I loſt her, heere I will finde her, or loſe my ſelfe.

Par. But you will trouble and hinder other actors that haue parts heere to play as well as you.

Inſa. Actors. what actors? Is this a ſtage? Is this a play? no, tis a game in earneſt. tis no ieſt, tis loue in ſadneſſe. Let them come that come will: if anie come but my loue, I haue

no-

nothing to ſay to them. Doe you as you thinke good.

Par. Nay, if you ſtay, I will not goe. I will not leaue my friend ſo.

ACT. 7. SCEN. 2.

Intrat Antonio, Simplo, Purgato *with a cloake-bag full vnder his arme, all booted, ſpur'd, and riding roddes.*

Haue you lock'd vp all the doores, and deliuered the foul linnen to be waſh'd?

Sim. All is ſafe, and euerie thing done.

Anto. Haue you giuen the Coblers wife the 7 egges we left at breakefaſt?

Sim. She hath them.

Anto. This is but ill husbandrie to loſe 7 egges at a clap, and my bellie not verie full.

Sim. Sir, they are well beſtowed, they will doe the poore woman good, and you haue eaten pretie well.

Anto. I haue not eaten ſo well as you thinke for. And they are not fit meate for her mouth: ſome groſſer meate would doe her more good.

Sim. I warrant you Sir, ſhe can eate an egge without ſurfeiting, as well as the fineſt Ladie in this Land.

Anto. Come on, ſince tis done, let them goe: but *(hee ſteps forward, and they follow, but preſently comes backe, and ſaith)* I cannot ride my iourney contentedlie vntill I haue theſe egges. *Simplo*, fetch them againe. Tell the woman, ſhe ſhall haue as manie or more another time.

Sim. turnes to the people, ſaying. Now muſt I fetch theſe egges from the poore woman againſt my nature. *Exit & cito redit with 7 egges. Anto. takes them & exit. Simplo goeth on ſaying*, I was neuer aſhamed of a maſter before. There are few times that we ride forth, but a roſte Rabbet, a piece of cheeſe, or a drie breſt of mutton is truſſ'd vp in the cloak-bag, eſpecially when wee lye at an Inne the next night (as

now we ſhall.) And but for ſowling the cloake-bag, and his cloathes, we had carried theſe egges now.

Pur There is no ſuch ſtuffe now in the cloake-bagge I trow? If I thought there were, I would throw it to the dogs rather then it ſhould ride behinde me.

Sim. Is there not? tis a great chance then; & I am much deceiu'd if there be none: for there were ſome ſcrappes left yeſternight, and I finde them not in anie roome in the houſe.

Pur. That ſhalbe tried by and by. Be theſe his trickes? though I be his horſe-keeper, Ile carrie no coales nor bones neither I trow. *(hee vndoeth an end of the cloake-bag, and there takes out a napkin full of pieces of bread, a quarter of a breſt of mutton, a piece of boyl'd beefe, a pudding, a bone of a leine of veale: that he vnpinneth, and lifting it vp by one corner, lets all fall, and preſently catcheth at them with his hands vpon the ground, ſcrambling eneriewayas hee would catch at a Rat, ſaying.)* What's become of her? take heed gentlewomen ſhe get not vp. I ſweare, I had almoſt catch'd her. Was there not a Rat there? Maſters, you below, came ſhee not that way?

Sim. Langheth, and ſaith. How now *Purgato.* What, art thou at ſpan-counter with Rats? I perceiue thou wouldeſt haue fought with any Rat in London rather then ſhe ſhould haue beguil'd thee of thy provender.

Pur. My provender? the dogs ſhall eate it, before any bit ſhall come in my mouth. How came he by theſe ſcraps, and what would he doe with them?

Sim. Thou art but a novice *Purgato.* and hadſt as much wit when thou ſuckedſt (I thinke) as now. And beſides for that thou camеſt to him but yeſterday (in a manner) art ignorant of his faſhions. I will inſtruct thee. The night before he rides from London, he will invite ſome of his acquaintance to ſupper with him (at their owne charge more then his) then the remnant he packeth vp thus. And at the next Inne he lodgeth in (if it be two dayes thence) he eates theſe

eates

cates vnder the colour of a litle ioint there dreſſed. And by this meanes hee is counted at his Inne a verie ſmall meate-man, but everie-where els a tall trencher-man. But thou muſt vnderſtand the chamberlain and tapſter are ſent down when theſe dainties are in devouring.

Pur. But doe you eate anie of this daintie traſhe with him?

Sim. Or els I muſt goe hungrie to bed, and ride emptie the next day.

Pur. As true as I liue, hee ſhall never bring mee to this geare. And the next time he makes ſuch a meſſe, Ile provide ſawce: for Ile put a freſh horſe-turd in the midſt. And my trotting horſe will ſoone ſeaſon it all alike. *Intrat Ant.*

Anto. Come away, I haue eaten foure of theſe egges, the reſt I haue put in branne to preſerue againſt the nex Tearme: but what's heere? how came this meate heere? mee thinkes I ſhould know theſe pieces.

Pur. It may be ſo Sir, but I did neuer ſee the like.

Anto. Why ſo?

Pur. As I had the cloake-bag vnder mine arme, I felt a thing ſtirre within it: and in ſearching, I found theſe ſcraps, and among them an huge Rat. And ſhe went away inviſible: for I am ſure we could not ſee which way ſhe ran, nor could I catch her, doe what I could, and yet I ſcambled at her with both my hands.

Anto. Why doe you not gather vp the meate, and put it vp againe?

Pur. What? and the Rat had piſſ'd on it for feare, and it ſtinkes too bad.

Anto. How canſt thou tell that a Rat had piſſ'd on it, when you confeſſe you did ſee no Rat?

Pur. No, not which way ſhee ran away. But if yonder boy had gap'd wide enough, hee might haue catch'd her in his mouth: and doe you thinke I ſaw not a Rat? I am ſure there was a Rat, for my minde gaue me ſo. And further, I had like to catch'd her. All this companie can tell what a

courſe I had at her, if you will not beleeue me.

Anto. Goe to, goe to. You are a foole. Put them vp and let vs away.

Pur. I were a foole indeed, and a beaſt too, if I would put them vp.

Anto. I bid you put them vp like a foole as you are.

Pur. I cannot put them vp like a foole, nor I will not.

Anto. Thou ſhalt put them vp, or ſerue me no longer.

Pur. With all my heart maſter, Ile turne you off at this inſtant. Heere is witnes enough I haue giuen you lawfull warning. *Exit.*

Anto. Gather vp this meate *Simplo*, thou and I will fare the better. Tis but ſending this knaues horſe downe by the Carrier. Or els Ile driue him with his loade, he ſhalbe the ſumpter horſe.

Simplo *gathers them vp, and puts them in the napkin, and pinnes them vp, puts them into the cloak bag.*

Exeunt Antonio & Simplo.

ACT. 7. SCEN. 2.

Parv. How lik'ſt thou this ſport *Inſatiato?* hath it diuerted thy thoughts a little?

Inſa. It was ſome recreation I muſt needes ſay: but my fit is comming on apace. *Intrat* Leuitia. And looke where ſhe comes. Now I tremble with feare of a deadly doome; but I muſt ſpeake howſoeuer I ſpeede. Welcome ſweet Miſtreſſe. Now kill, or keepe me aliue with your anſwere.

Lev. Your queſtions Sir (if I forget not) were, what was my name, and what order I purpoſe to enter. My name is *Leuitia*. And my deſire is to be a Nunne of my mothers order. But if my virginitie were not of ful age; and Maidenhead a dangerous burden, I would be a Nun of a ſtraighter order.

Inſa. Your mothers order? what order is that? I neuer heard

heard of a Nun haue a child, no husband, and yet continue in Cloyſter, and a Nun before ſhe had a child.

Lev. My mother vowed chaſtitie, and after that had a childe by her husband.

Inſa. Why *Leuitia*? this is a riddle, and a wonder to me; yet this Engliſh I picke out of it, that you may haue a huſband as your mother had. And then if it pleaſe you, I may be your ghoſtlie father after the faſhion of this country: but how, or why your mother or you ſhould vow chaſtitie, I ſee not, nor would I be married to ſuch a Nun.

Par. Alas *Inſatiate*, I perceiue thou art ſimple in this buſines, or els not yet come to thy ſelfe again. *Levitia* ſpeakes well, but thy capacitie is verie muddie. Wouldſt thou not haue thy wife vow chaſtitie, but be an harlot? there is chaſtity and continencie among married folke, ſo long as they be faithfull each to other. But virginitie goes further: and that is ſequeſtred continencie during life, not admitting compānie for procreation.

Inſa. I vnderſtand it now (thanks to thee *Parvagracia*) but this creature would haue delayd me longer, and dull'd my wits without mercie.

Enter Peſtifero, *and whiſpers* Inſatiato, *to whom in anger he anſwereth, either let them ſtay, or teare the writings, I cannot yet come.* *Exit Peſtif.*

But I thanke her yet for the kinde order ſhee hath made to be of her mothers order. I hope (ſweet Miſtris *Levitia*) you will heare no motion to ouerthrow this order againe. And now tell me, what ſay you to my vow, which in all equitie muſt be performed. You ſee I was content (though much againſt my minde) that you ſhould haue kept your vow of virginitie, (if ſo had ſtood your reſolution) now I appeale to your owne court for Iuſtice, and hope you will giue as good way to the fulfilling of my vow, which is never to leaue your ſervice and compānie.

Lev. I heard you talke at Randon of ſuch a thing. Many ſuch (I doubt not) you haue made, and quickly broken;

and this of the ſame mettle, & ſo will proue as brittle. Courtiers vowes of this nature are but words, a little more ſtiffly blowne out of their mouthes, then the reſt of their ſpeech, but come no neerer their hearts. The gunner puts a little more powder in the gun to make it carrie the ſhot further, but hits the marke no whit the righter: So they driue their vowes with a little ſtronger breath, but their intention is not the ſtreighter.

Inſa. Indeed I confeſſe that I haue ſometimes done as you ſay: but now my heart is right, and my meaning direct.

Lev. How ſhall that appeare to me?

Par. I dare vndertake (Ladie *Levitia*) he meanes iuſtly by you: for I haue ſeene him in a dangerous paſſion when you left our companie, which if you had heard, ſtanding in ſome ſecret place, you could not but haue compaſſion on him, or els you were verie diſdainfull and cruell. Beſides I know it is a great matter that would ſtay him ſo long as he hath talked with you from diſpatching a buſineſſe of great importance, as you may partlie perceiue by the meſſenger comming ſo often in the meane time to haue him away.

Lev. Sir, a ſeconder of a tale makes manie times an incredible thing beleeued. And for your teſtimonie, I giue him credit the better, and perhaps I was within ſight and hearing too, when this gentleman was ſo loue-ſicke as you ſpeake of, which made me in verie pitie come the ſoonen in to relieue him. And I would not haue you think *Parvagracio* that I am diſdainefull, for that winneth nothing but hatred: nor am I cruel, for that is euer payed home with extreame miſerie. Now yet am I proud (which vice you touched not) for that is derided of all wiſe people, but my feare and doubt was alwayes to be deceiued.

Inſa. Heere is my hand I will neuer deceiue you,

Lev. Heere is my hand I will never leaue you. But what, a foole was I? I ſhould haue agreed for maintenance and ioincture before I had beene handfaſt.

Inſa. That's no matter, Ile performe as well as if I were bound

bound hand and foote. I will allow you 10^{l} a yeare for pinnes, 5^{l} for ſhooes, 15^{l} for ſtockings, garters, bodies, and girdles, 50^{l} for gownes, peticoates and ſuch like: 20^{l} for all ſorts of linnen and new faſhions, this is 100^{l} a yeere, and is as much as my liuing will afford. And for performance of this anie friend of yours ſhall haue a ſtature vpon all the land I haue. And for your ioincture, I will giue good aſſurance, that the longer liuer of vs two ſhal poſſeſſe all I haue, If I die not worth a groate.

Lev. I like all well but my allowance for pins: it is not enough: for it is a baſe faſhion now-a-daies to vſe cuſhnets and ſaue pinnes. The verie warmth of our bodies, will change their colour in three houres, and they wilbe crooked with pulling off, fie vpon them: but Ile be a good huſwife otherwiſe. and get as much by other meanes as ſhall piece out this penſion to make it ſerue. Sirra, I haue skill in Phiſicke, I can cure the *coxt euill* in anie man. And if hee be neuer ſo leane, and rawbon'd, I can ſo diet him in halfe a yeare, that he will be fed vntill he grow purſe-ſicke. And for thee (ſweet heart) be of good cheere, for thou ſhalt neuer die (without a great chance) as long as I liue. For I can play a tricke, that if thou be never ſo cold, or frozen almoſt to death, I can make thee luke-warme in halfe an houre.

Inſa. (*Imbraceth and kiſſeth her*) Ha my liuelie *Levitia*, we cannot chuſe but thriue if thou haſt theſe trades. But is thy portion in ſure hands?

Lev. Feare nothing of that, you ſhall haue mee and my portion at an inſtant, all together readie bagg'd.

Inſa. Beſt of all, then it requires no telling. Heere is a token for thee my chicken.

Lev What? kniues? O, I will not take them in anie wife, they will cut loue.

Inſa. No, no: if they cut anie thing, they will cut away vnkindneſſe.

Lev. Pardon mee (good Sir) you ſhall not giue them me. If needes you will that I weare them, do you loſe, and I will find them.

Inſa.

Inſa. That's a toy of all toyes. That were fitter for a ſtage then a wedding.

Lev, Indeed you ſhall not denie me this firſt requeſt, I pray you loſe them.

Inſa. Well, tis no newes to be made a foole by a woman. Ile doe it, if it were worſe. *Then he walkes about and droppes them downe, and ſhe comes after and takes them vp ſaying.*

Lev. This is as it ſhould be: now I haue deceaued deſtinie.

Par. This is Superſtich my ſhoores, now he hath fooled a fopperie. And you haue found a foolerie.

Lev. You mocke this *Parvagracio.* I warrant you doe not thinke it evill lucke if the falt fall toward you.

Par. But I doe if no bodie overthrowe it.

Le. What if a Hare croſſe your way? is that nothing neither?

Par. That's euill lucke indeed if I haue no dogges to courſe her.

Inſa. Parvagracio. I prethee lead *Levitia* to my lodging. I muſt craue pardon to goe about a ſpeciall buſineſſe which concernes all my worth: but we will diſpatch quickly and follow. And meet me the next way *Parvagracio* wee muſt haue your helpe. Ile goe before.

Lev. In any caſe looke to the maine chance, for now you haue a clogge. It is the firſt gift every wife giues her husband. *Exeunt Parv. & Levitia.*

Inſa. Now boy, wee muſt about theſe bonds ſealing to put vs in ſuits for this wedding. Wee ſhall ſure thriue now. Two ſuch bargaines gone through in one day. A ſtranger for a wife and ragges for our wealth. We cannot want after theſe matches. I could haue found in my heart to asked her ſome monie and miſt this ragg'd monie. But what if ſhee haue none? ſhe ſaith I ſhall haue her and all ready bagg'd. Perhaps ſhe meanes that herſelfe is readie bagg'd to my hand. I cannot tell: there be ſuch tricks in the world. I doubt I am vtterly vndone with this fooliſh match.

Inſa.

Infa. Why ſir, if you be let it not trouble you, I hope you ſhall haue better lucke in greater matters, & yet if ſhe haue a good portion you are happy, if ſhe haue none, yet you may be even with her if it pleaſe you although ſhe proue a roaring girle.

Infa. Canſt thou tell which way to be even with her?

Infa. Marry to haue as little as ſhe. And if I were as you I would ſerue her ſo, teach her to come emptie handed to a man of your ſpending.

Infa. Well: we muſt make the moſt of her that I can now I haue her: and take no care for any thing, thats the way to liue long and leaue nothing.

ACT. 7. SCEN. 3.

Intrat Simplo.

Gentlemen (you two I meane M. *Securus* and Sir *Hermite*) my maſter intreats you both to come to his chamber for a ſhort ſpace, he will go twice ſo faire for you any other time. *Exeunt Infa, & Infal.*

Secu. Thanke your maſter, we haue din'd alreadie, and can eat nothing: another time we will ſee him if wee haue no buſineſſe.

Sim O you miſtake it Sir neither now, nor any other time for eating: there is no meat: my Maſter does not vſe to quilt his frends ſtomacks with too much meat. No, hee would ſpeake with you about a note he hath cauſed to bee drawne: he will deſire you to perviſe it, and do him a favour it is in the nature of a certificate.

Secu. Truely he ſhall haue no hand of mine to any writing, nor to anie purpoſe, nor for my credit ſake will I come in his companie. I doe imagine what it is. He knoweth that we heare ſo much evill of him, that he doubts we will ſpeak as we finde. And therefore he would haue vs giue commendations of him to ſome friend of ours in ſome ſmall requeſt which he never meanes to ſue for. But this our good report

he will keepe by him partly to ſtop our mouthes (hoping we will not ſpeake contrarie to our teſtimonie in writing, and partly for his credit to be ſhewed vpon every occaſion againſt all that haue cauſe to ſpeake evill of him. Let him content himſelfe we refuſe to come neere him.

Her. Honeſt friend: I marvell with what conſcience thou canſt ſerue one that is ſo generally counted diſhoneſt.

Sim. Mary Sir with as wide and large a conſcience as any man hath, and as throughly tentered. My maſter & I are no niggards of our conſcience. Beſides I am bound by my 100l. to ſerue him.

Her. Thou wert as good loſe thy 100l at firſt, as at laſt for he will in the end deceaue thee of it.

Sim. If he doe then I hope hee will teach mee cunning worth 100l to deceaue others. & ſo I may double my 100l. For I doe not thinke but hee hath gotten manie 100l with art. And Ile never leaue him tell I get all his tricks. and now he hath made me free he will vſe me as his fellow.

Her. By that meanes thou wilt accompanie him to hell.

Sim. Downe the lane to the Divell. Nay an wee goe to no worſe place then Hell I care not: for I doe not think but my maſter hath craft enough for any Divell on um all.

Her. But there he ſhall meet with his craftis maſter.

Sim. What? maſter my maſter in craft? that were ſomewhat ſtrange, yet Ile beleeue any thing but that. Well I ſhall tell him you will not come. And what's the reaſon you will not come? I haue almoſt forgotten.

Her. Mary becauſe at our baptiſme wee vowed to renounce the infernall Spirit. And now vpon our owne experience and iudgement we abandon all incarnate Divells.

Sim. Abandon? what's that? if I can obſerue that word right, I ſhall cary the reſt well. I knowe what you meane by incarnation Divell. *Exit.*

Her. What doe you iudge of theſe paſſages M. *Securus*?

Secu. Surely Sir it is hard vpon the ſuddaine to deliuer a true ſentence vpon ſo many contrarieties as this day wee haue

haue heard But breefly I thinke they ought all to be reduced vnto two maine heads of Good and Bad. and of the worſt to chuſe the leaſt: and of the better take the moſt.

Her. In part I diſſent from you but in part I agree. If we be conſtrained to chuſe among things which are evill it is beſt to permit the leaſt: but if a man haue freedome there the beſt choice is to refuſe evill be it never ſo little. Among the ſeverall diſcourſes this day acted. I note many vices vailed over with froth, and floriſh of words, but the ſame againe vnmasked with ſubſtantiall matter, and laid naked to diſgrace. So it ſeemeth they are not propounded to imitate, but ſet forth to be ſhamed. They are painted in colours but in a map of miſchiefe: they haue ſome patrons and followers, but ſuch as runne to ruine. They are brought forth to be vewed; but to manifeſt their vglineſſe. They come not here to be liked, but lothed: not to be fauored, but derided. Not allowed in private, but in publike to be condemned. S. I hope that all wiſe hearers will avoid the ſinnes and abuſes here touched (which are many) and follow good counſell if they heard any. Which that they may doe my part is to pray to the giuer of wiſdome. And ſo Sir, wiſhing much proſperitie to your charitable endeavours, I take leaue, and the next way to my poore quiet Cell. *Exit & Securus ſequitur.*

Intrat Proberio. (*wit.*

Thus haue we ſought the world about, in all degrees to find out
Somewhat elſe we found indeed: but yet we found not it.
We did as thoſe that ſeeke for fiſh in many emptie pooles.
Only two wiſe men we found and all the reſt be fooles. *Exit*

EPILOGVS.

NOw that your patience hath permitted vs to bring vnto an end this preſent Dialogue, wee ſtand in good hope of your clemencie, that no more offence will bee taken at any word or action paſſed then we had meaning to giue, which wee proteſt was none at all. For it were againſt reaſon and our owne ends to driue hence that companie, which we wiſh rather aeubled, then out of it one to be ſpared. It reſteth that we render you very humble and hartie thanks. And that all our hearts pray for the King, and his families enduring happineſſe, and our countries perpetuall welfare. Si placet plaudite.

FINIS.

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